

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

Attending:

Rick Bailey, Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Dan Hager, Ray Jackson, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guests: Paul Sebring, Paul Bourgeois of Max13 Construction

Discussion with Max13 Construction

Paul Bourgeois explained that he has reviewed our construction plans, addressed several questions through Joan, and researched the project. He gave us a proposed project contract for one mile at a time.

We made a few requests for changes, including omitting tree removal and adding aggregate installation. Mark also asked for a reference. Paul will get back to us with a revised document.

New board member

Bill recommended Rick Bailey, retiring Townsend Police Chief, to join our board. A motion to elect Rick was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rick posed an idea of selling Squannacook River Rail Trail railroad spikes as a fundraiser, especially if they are cleaned up and mounted on a base.

Contractor bids for construction, tree clearing, and fence

Mark obtained a bid from Powell's in Lunenburg to do the entire project, minus tree clearing. We made a few requests for changes, including adding language about rails and omitting the parking lots. Mark will ask Powell's to revise the bid.

Bill reiterated his support for removing trees and

installing fence this year, and then building the first mile next year.

Cedwyn expressed concerns with spending our limited resources on the Sterilite fence. We agreed to find out if the current DCR grant can fund it.

Strategy for MassTrails grant award

Joan described a conversation she had with Amanda Lewis from DCR about our grant award. Amanda said we may decline the award if we want, but she prefers that we keep our \$27K award and change the scope of our project in order to be eligible for future grants.

We discussed submitting a new grant request that includes the fence at ~\$28K, tree removal at ~\$10K, and stormwater plan/NPDES permit for ~\$2K, for a total of ~\$40K.

Bill will phone Amanda to get details about revising the grant. Bill will work out the numbers and Joan will work out the narrative.

Cedwyn noted that the 1,400-foot fence is not part of our ENF. Pete Cunningham will clarify with Dave Paulson. The fence is also in the buffer zone, so will need approval from the Townsend Cons Comm. Joan will talk to Dave Henkels.

As a backup plan in case the fence is not allowed, we can ask for grant money for about one mile of wattles for use next year. We considered requesting funding for the wetland replicate wetland, but we don't have bids yet.

We are still in consensus to move forward with clearing trees and building the fence this winter.

Harbor Village Shopping Center

Pete Cunningham connected with the contact person for the new property owners and

forwarded them the correspondences Steve Meehan had with the previous owners. The new owners are reviewing our plans. They request 24 hour notice of any activity and want us to get Shaw's to move the dumpsters that are in front of our staging area.

Recap of volunteer work day to install wattles

Joan ordered 8,400 linear feet of wattles at \$1.65 per linear foot and 2,025 stakes at \$9.50 per bundle of 25 stakes. S&M Farms delivered the pallets of wattles and bundles of stakes to staging locations on Friday, November 1.

Almost 50 people volunteered on Saturday, November 2, overflowing the town parking lot on Jefts St. Volunteers worked all morning and into the afternoon to complete the wattle installation and then many retired to the Townsend House.

Joan and Paul returned 33 unused wattles to S&M Farms for credit. Bill has 36 extra stakes and Bruce has 14 extra wattles and 1 1/2 bundles of stakes.

Conservation Commission site reviews

Both Nick Gualco from Groton and Dave Henkels from Townsend have been out to look at the trail. Dave contacted us with some requested changes near Meetinghouse Road, which Paul completed.

Townsend Stormwater Plan, wetland replication, parking lot permitting, project timeline

These projects are on hold.

Fundraising and financial report

Bill reported that we received additional donations in memory of Steve Meehan. Upcoming bills include payment to S&M for the wattles, which Joan estimates at \$11-12K.

Review of meeting minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from October 30, 2019 was seconded and approved unanimously with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, December 4** at 7:00 PM at **Baileys**.

This will be a combined meeting and holiday party!

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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