

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2019

Attending:

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

Guest: Paul Sebring

The December meeting was held at Bailey's Bar & Grille to celebrate the holidays and our progress in 2019.

Tree clearing

Kings Tree Service started clearing at the staging area on Gary Shepherd's property and continued east to the Harbor Church. They are also working on Gary's parcel across the rail corridor near Harbor Pond. There appears to be activity despite the deep snow cover. They said they plan to continue to Meetinghouse Road and past, using Gary's property as the landing.

Fence installation

Paul Bourgeois of Max13 Construction reviewed the fence area with Bill, Joan, Paul Sebring, and a fence installer. Their bid is the lowest. They hoped to schedule installation for the 2nd–3rd week of December, but may have to wait. Joan has been updating them on our progress.

Joan has been in communication with the Townsend Conservation Commission to determine their requirements for fence installation in a resource area.

Pete Cunningham has communicated with NHESP to find out their requirements. Dave Paulson expresses no issues with the fence, but asked for a 6-8" gap at the bottom to allow animals to escape the trucking yard.

Bill asked about the possibility of installing the fence after March 15 if the snow remains all winter. Joan will find out what equipment Max13 plans to use, so we can ask NHESP about installing in spring.

Aggregate supplier

We received an offer of discounted materials from Graniteville Materials in Westford, whose General Manager is a Townsend resident. Bill gave them an update and clarified that surface application will not take place this winter.

Rail removal

Paul Sebring and Joan have been in contact with a rail removal contractor named Dave Sears, who worked on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and has worked with Iron Horse. Dave has suggestions and ideas for better pricing. Plans to walk the trail with him were delayed due to snow, but when rescheduled, Mark and Peter Cunningham want to participate.

Considering this new option for rail removal, we discussed whether we might be able to remove the rails during this construction season.

Wattles

Bruce Easom delivered 13 wattles and some stakes to Joan and Paul's house before the snowstorm. The wattles are on two pallets and covered with a tarp. Joan will ask the Highway Department if they are interested in buying any, as opposed to storing them until next year.

Revised scope for MassTrails grant award

Bill and Joan prepared a revised scope budget and narrative, which Amanda Lewis approved. Under the new scope, our current grant award will pay for tree removal, fence construction, and professional inspection. There will be no change in the dollar amount and much of the grant match will come out of our funds.

Amanda Lewis requested three quotes for tree removal and fence installation, along with justification for the fence. Bill forwarded the requested information.

Bill prepared our grant contract paperwork, which Pete Cunningham signed and mailed.

Amanda is aware of our new three-year plan, and said she may have suggestions. Bill will schedule a call with Amanda and Joan.

The next round of grant applications are due in February 2020. Pete Cunningham pointed out that the state is increasing the money budgeted for the MassTrails program.

Fundraising and financial report

Bill distributed a financial report. We expect to have ~\$98K in assets remaining after this construction season. Bill estimates this amount is enough to provide 20% match for \$400K in future grants, not counting volunteer hours.

Meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from our meeting on November 13, 2019 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Legion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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