

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

Attending:

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

This was an online Zoom meeting.

Proposal for Town Line sign

Steve Legge of the Groton Trails Committee gave us a proposal for making and installing a sign on the rail trail at the Groton/Townsend town line for \$22 including the post. Bill made a motion to buy the sign and post and a back-up for a total of \$29. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Letter of support for the Recreational Trails Program

Dick O'Brien circulated an email from American Trails seeking support for House Bill 5759, full funding of the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Joan will write and send a letter from our group using the template provided.

Repair work on bridges near Harbor Pond

The old decking on the Grist Mill bridge is in bad condition, so Mark recommends that we remove it, as opposed to installing new decking over it. To save on cost, he recommends we replace only the decking in the center, between the rails. He developed a proposed layout for re-decking, which he estimates at \$652. We will need a tarp beneath to capture debris when we remove the rotted wood.

Bill conferred with Gary Shepherd, who supports the idea. As this is a maintenance project and we are not disturbing the surroundings, we should not need to contact the Conservation Commission.

We will do the work ourselves, without hiring a

contractor. Mark will supervise. Bill will send around an email with prospective dates.

The bridge at the Cooperage is in better condition. It is a bit narrower but also longer than the Grist Mill bridge, so replacing the decking will be about the same cost. Repair would involve tearing off reasonably solid lumber, with minimal concern about debris. We could just replace the worst boards and re-secure the rest. We decided to hold off on repairing the Cooperage bridge while we work on the one at the Grist Mill.

Crosswinds Drive fence request

No new activity.

Status of MassTrails 2019 grant reimbursement

Bill reported that the check for \$27,780 was deposited today.

Status of MassTrails 2020 grant application

No activity. Bill will inquire within the next weeks.

Trail clearing

Bill and Cheryl have been clearing sections of trail of the wood scrap of left behind during tree removal. Joan worked on the section behind the Harbor Village shopping center. All of the trail now has at least a passable walking path.

Publicity

Bill wants to publicize the cleared walking path with a new map. Townsend Historical Society does not want Harbor Church listed as a parking area at this time, so the map will show Depot Street and the fisherman's lot for parking.

Bill took photos along the trail from Harbor

Church to Depot Street for a new video. Ray asked him to include use of the sidewalk in Townsend Harbor.

Event with Townsend Historical Society

Bill reported that the event with the Historical Society was postponed and the Reed Homestead is closed. We may be able to collaborate with their Minuteman encampment planned for October 3.

Fundraising and financial report

We still have \$103K.

Other news

Ray got in touch with Dave Topham of the New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition and will send him a follow-up email about possible future collaboration between New Hampshire and Massachusetts on rail trails.

Bill will contact Stan Dillis about parking lot permitting and stormwater plan as soon as we hear about the DCR grant.

Pete Cunningham noted that Bob Johnson passed away. Bob was the Veteran's Agent working at the Groton Legion when we held our meetings.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on May 13, 2020 was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz ,Clerk

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