

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dan Hager, Ray Jackson, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Construction status / NHESP extension

Dave Paulson gave us permission to continue construction to March 31, with instructions to watch for turtles. Shepherd's thinks they can finish in that timeframe. They are currently grinding brush along the trail, and they anticipate that the ice will melt enough by Monday that they can start putting down stone dust and working on the wetland replication. They hope to make a drone movie for publicity.

They will put down another layer of smaller rock in the cut before the top layer. They are buying from Graniteville Materials in Westford, who offered us materials at a discounted rate.

The parking lot will wait until after March 31.

MassTrails report / MassTrails reimbursements

We owe MassTrails a status report by March 15. Joan is working on the form and narrative; Bill will complete the budget.

Financial report

Bill reported that we will have \$45K at the end of this construction season, as expected. Ken Gerken gave us a generous donation this month and Amazon Smile continues to support us.

Bill said next January we will need to write two grants, MassTrails and Community Foundation.

Conflict of Interest/ Form 990

Bill reminded everyone to please send him their signed Conflict of Interest forms.

A motion to approve our Form 990 was seconded and approved unanimously. Bill will send the form to the IRS.

Meehan Bridge project status

Bill told Stan Dillis that we are ready to go before the Townsend Select Board with the proposal for the pedestrian bridge over the Squannacook. Stan agreed to start working on the project, starting with the BOS first before going to NHESP and the Conservation Commission.

Bill sent courtesy letters to the residences on Old Meetinghouse Road.

Permit for Grist Mill bridge repair

Dave Henkels resigned, but Karen Hill got back to us about our request for an amended Order of Conditions. We are on the agenda for the Townsend Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, March 24. Joan, Bruce, Peter, and Bill can attend. Joan will send an email reminder.

Townsend Shared Winter Streets grant

Joan was part of a Townsend committee that submitted an application to MassDOT for bicycling/pedestrian improvements. Included in the proposal are signs in the center of town pointing to the rail trail and a bike lane on Depot Street. Also, the rail trail parking lot will get a "You Are Here" sign, bench, bike rack, and repair stand.

Award notifications are expected by March 31 and projects must be completed by May 31. If we win, we will need to decide where to install items at the Depot Street parking lot.

Townsend Wild & Scenic grant application

Another proposed Townsend project is to improve the town-owned area around Adams Dam. The grant committee asked us if Squannacook Greenways would support the idea of upgrading the MBTA fencing around the trestle; Bill and Joan gave informal approval.

Joan noted that both town grant committees are very enthusiastic about the rail trail and are looking for ways to support it. They are also eager to extend the trail to the Adams Dam area and Jefts Street parking lot.

Groton CPA application

The Community Preservation Committee scored the FY2022 projects and voted to recommend all proposals submitted. Peter noted that out of the 12 applications, we scored number 3.

Our request is \$30K to match a MassTrails grant. Peter will present our request at the Spring Town Meeting on Saturday, May 1. Photos of the finished section will be helpful.

Bill said some Townsend residents want to try again to get a CPA program approved. Bruce said he is on the steering committee at the State level, and may be able to help.

Events/publicity/fundraising

Earth Day was canceled in Townsend. Pete does not know yet about Groton Fest. We hope that restrictions on gatherings will begin to relax soon.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on February 10, 2021 was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **April 7, 2021** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.