

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2016

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Al Futterman, Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guests: Paul Sebring, Dave Peloquin

Dave's 15 year old son Andrew is interested in a volunteer Eagle Scout project such as helping to build a kiosk.

Rail trail clean-up, Townsend Earth Day (April 23)

About 25 people participated in trash pick-up. We filled all 75 trash bags and brought all waste to the Townsend Recycling Center. where they accepted some of our flyers to hand out.

Groton had minimal trash. The dumpsters in Townsend Harbor seem to have accumulated a lot off trash.

Veronica Kell from the Townsend Conservation Land Trust approached our Earth Day table to inquire about a collaboration between our two groups to sponsor a public hike on New Year's Day or Thanksgiving.

Preparations for Groton River Festival (Sunday, June 19)

Steve will host our booth to answer questions and give out flyers. Pete Carson will arrange for a spot and help to set up. Parking is at Deluxe and people will be bused to the boat launch.

Plans for trail clearing / abutter notification letters

Joan prepared our letters alerting abutters to upcoming trail work. Steve signed and mailed them this week. We have not heard back from any of the abutters.

We are ready to begin trail clearing in the Townsend Harbor area. Mark suggested we start doing some each week. Ray will plan work

events and will send out group notices in advance.

Clearing the trail will allow us to start doing public trail walks, which can become another fund-raising effort. Bill suggested that we can host an "early donors" walk for people who buy a brick. We discussed alternatives, including a "donor appreciation" walk with an "open house" showing everything we've done so far.

Bill developed a list of businesses along the rail trail and suggested we can ask them for coupons to advertise their business.

Diverting trail walkers in the Townsend Harbor area

Steve noted that we need to divert walkers to the sidewalk in Townsend Harbor. We discussed ideas for directional signs. Bill will meet with Richard Hanks to review Townsend's rules about signage. Bruce will review the regulations. Mark is willing to build some signs.

Peter Carson suggested we also post No Motor Vehicles signs.

Capital campaign / Buy-a-Brick campaign / other publicity and outreach

Bill reported an increase in brick sales after Earth Day, for a total of 20 bricks so far. We currently have just over \$45,000 in equity. Bill explained that \$8,500 in accounts receivable are pledges that have not yet come in as cash.

We each took a package of flyers to hand out to family and friends.

Dave Peloquin brought up the idea of a Go Fund Me to follow the Buy-a-Brick campaign.

Financial report / approve IRS forms / bags. sign conflict of interest policy

A motion to approve the IRS 990 form that Bill circulated was seconded and approved

unanimously, contingent on Steve's review, edits, and approval.

Directors each signed the conflict of interest policy.

Our total insurance bill, which is coming due, is \$819. A motion to authorize Bill to pay up to \$900 for insurance in the coming year was seconded and passed unanimously.

Permitting updates/Updates on parking near Bertozzi

Bruce and Cedwyn have been unable to schedule a meeting with Pat Huckery. We have not heard from Natural Heritage about the package we sent, although it was informational and may not require a response.

Rail Assessment by Iron Horse

Mark received a new assessment of the rail value, which is less than previously thought. We also learned that the ties will be more costly to dispose of. The new estimate is approximately \$280K, almost twice the previous estimate.

The estimate includes \$8K for clearing, so it may be more cost-effective than clearing with volunteer labor.

Review of meeting minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from April 13, 2016 was seconded and approved unanimously, with two abstaining .

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, June 8** at 7:00 P.M. at the NRWA.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.