

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2016

Attending:

Peter Carson, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Townsend Historical Society

Bill reported that the society is still committed to an easement through their parking lot and agreed to let us begin crossing if we clearly designate a route along the edge of the lot.

Mark Cram estimated about \$1,000 (or less with volunteers) to apply stone dust. We discussed the benefits of bark mulch vs. stone dust, as digging and applying stone dust would need a Conservation Committee filing. Bill would like to plan for a volunteer work day in spring.

Other business

Peter Cunningham noted that the Town of Groton was contacted by a group interested in purchasing a right of way along the rail corridor near Rt. 225. He will keep us informed.

Review of trail walk/trail marking/ events

Our Oct 22 trail marking event was successful, despite the rain. About seven volunteers nailed up markers end to end. Joan will place another marker between Sterilite and the trailers, as some of the Nov 5 walkers took a wrong turn.

The Nov 5 trail walk with Freedom's Way/Natural Heritage was a huge success. About 60 walkers attended, overflowing the trestle parking lot. The Townsend Historical Society gave a tour of the Reed Homestead. Bill made a short video and posted on Facebook.

Planning for future events

Peter will attend a meeting in Fitchburg for the Waterline Trail.

We will plan a spring work day at Harbor Church parking lot and a spring cleanup along the trail.

We discussed other ideas including a walk with NRWA.

Grant activity

As of October 1, we are recipients of the DCR grant. Steve signed the paperwork to return to them. Team members working on permitting should begin documented the time they spend, so we will have accurate records of our grant match.

Bill submitted our concept paper for Nashoba Valley Community Foundation grant application.

The Bruce J. Anderson Foundation has not yet put out their call for applications.

The new grant cycle for the DCR Recreational Trails Program is now open, with applications due in February. We will wait until we have permits in hand before applying again.

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Doppelt grant does not seem like a good fit.

Buy-a-Brick/capital campaign /other fundraising / Financial report

Since last meeting, we sold 15 bricks for a total of 61 to date. Our trail walks and flyer displays appear to have been more successful than the mass mailing trial.

Bill's videos have received a lot of Facebook hits, so he will make one to remind people that the brick sale ends on December 31.

Joan will leave several holders of our flyers at NRWA for Peter Cunningham to place in Groton.

Our current budget \$65K.

Permitting/parking/consultation with Land Use Committees

Cedwyn is taking steps to schedule a pre-filing consultation with Dave Paulson of Natural Heritage.

Joan brought up the invasive plants along the corridor and we agreed that mitigation should be addressed once we are in the permitting process.

Review meeting minutes

The minutes from our meeting on October 19, 2016 were approved unanimously with three abstentions.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM** at the **Legion Hall in Groton**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

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