

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham,
Bruce Easom, Linda Mack, Tim Palmer,
Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Review of wattles installation

We installed wattles along the phase 4 wetland areas on Saturday. Around 50 people showed up to help, including a boy scout troop, and the installation went well.

A few leftover wattles at the fisherman's parking lot might be needed during culvert repairs. Bill will ask Gary if he can store them indoors. There are also three extras in Groton still wrapped in plastic, which we will leave on site in case they are needed.

Joan and Paul Sebring will return the three unused pallets for refund.

Conservation Commission inspection

Bill and Joan walked the Townsend part of phase 4 with Jessica Consolvo and James Gates. They approved the wattles installation and also looked closely at the culvert to be repaired.

Bruce will ask the Groton Conservation Commission if they want a site visit.

Phase 4 construction planning

Bill wants to make a first payment to Gary on contract signing. He will then submit the receipt to MassTrails and use the reimbursement for our second payment.

Gary talked about using large stones to shore up the collapsed river banks. We may leave the rails in place near his building and build the trail alongside.

Joan will post DEP signs and Orders of

Conditions in Townsend and Groton.

Board members are reminded to record volunteer hours, including the wattles work day. While not mandatory for the MassTrails grant, the time sheets are helpful for progress reports.

158 Main Street wetland violation

One of the channels through the berm reopened in recent rainstorms. It has now been blocked off with riprap.

The long-term restoration project is now in DEP's hands and a Clean Water Act permit application is required.

Stone dust repairs

Sandy sections have developed where rainwater ran down the trail. Colleen Abrams advised that once stone dust becomes soft, it must be removed, replaced, and compacted.

We tentatively scheduled a volunteer maintenance day for Saturday, November 11, meeting at Old Meetinghouse Road starting at 9:00 AM. Bill will mark out the problem areas.

A leaf blower might remove the loose stone dust. Mark suggested using slightly coarser stone dust in problem areas between 158 Main and Old Meetinghouse Road and near Harbor Auto. Mark will pick up material.

James will ask Gary about a catch basin near Harbor Auto to prevent runoff.

Other maintenance

Pete will try to repair the NO ATV sign at Harbor Church.

There have been no further ATV incursions that we know of.

Financial report

Bill paid \$2300 for a CPA appraisal, which is required when we take in more than \$200K per year. We paid Chris Overton \$2643.34 for the intersection islands.

We have \$357K in assets, \$330K of which will pay for construction. We are still waiting for state funds through Margaret Scarsdale's office.

Grants and fundraising

Bruce asked if we should apply for a Groton CPA 2025 grant. Bill suggested we try to fund engineering/permitting for the West Groton section as far as the ball field, using Stan Dillis' estimate.

Stan is also looking at permitting for the Townsend section approaching the trestle.

Mark estimated \$3300 for materials for fencing in the area around the fisherman's parking lot. (The Groton section is wide enough to not need fencing.) Joan believes we can apply for a Wild & Scenic Community Grant.

We could also pursue funds for fencing around Harbor Village shopping center to control the trash. Bill envisions applying to MassTrails for a chain link fence with slats.

Peter will ask the shopping center management about tidying up the area and perhaps doing a site walk.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the revised minutes from our September 13 meeting with an additional revision was seconded and approved unanimously.

Schedule next meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 8** at 7:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING

A motion to re-appoint Pete Carson and Bruce Easom for new three year terms was seconded and approved unanimously.

The new terms of our Board of Directors are:

Director	Term Expires
Tim Palmer	September 2024
Mark Cram	September 2024
Peter Cunningham	September 2024
Joan Wotkowicz	September 2024
Linda Mack	September 2025
Dan Hager	September 2025
Bill Rideout	September 2025
Dale Gates	September 2025
Rick Bailey	September 2025
Pete Carson	September 2026
Bruce Easom	September 2026

A motion to re-appoint officers for a one-year term was seconded and approved unanimously.

The term will expire in September 2024 for the following officers:

Officers	
President	Peter Cunningham
Vice President	Pete Carson
Treasurer	Bill Rideout
Clerk	Joan Wotkowicz

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

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