

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

In attendance:

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dan Hager, Linda Mack, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Status of Phase 4 construction

Recent rain caused a leak at the culvert near Shepherd's where the construction crew has been doing repairs. The trail surface has also eroded. Gary and James are looking at what repairs are needed.

Mass Highway is evaluating a damaged culvert under Rt. 119 and examining nearby culverts. Bill expects them to establish specifications for what the rail corridor culvert needs to be able to handle.

The construction crew expected to put down stone dust next week but may need to deal with the culvert first. They are currently working on the section of trail through the grassy area between the fisherman's parking lot and Shepherd's. They are making the walking trail in between the rails.

MassTrails grant for phase 4

Bill requested the last payment to close out the grant. We will need to submit a final report by June 30.

Plans for opening celebration

Scheduled for June 1. Lori Trahan cannot attend but will send a representative. The Twisted Pickle food truck may be interested. Bill is trying to contact musicians who play at Bailey's.

Bill would like a table to collect signatures in support of the Townsend Community Preservation Act. During his remarks, he will talk about how CPA can help the rail trail as

well as Historical Society projects.

East extension

Our CPA grant application is on the warrant for the Groton's town meeting on March 26. If approved, funding will be available July 1.

Peter has not been able to connect with the realty firm Greystone about the CSX freight rights. He noted that MBTA still collects a fee from H&V.

West extension

Bill put our MassTrails grant application on hold for this year due to cost. He received two estimates of ~\$250K for engineering and \$1-2M to repair the trestle.

Railcar display

Bill submitted a grant application to the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation for funding to build the railroad display at Depot Street.

Financial report

With no expenses this month, Bill still expects \$29K in our budget after the last payment to Gary.

Other maintenance

Our stone dust repairs near 158 Main are still holding.

Joan installed new signs to keep people off the bridge near the Grist Mill.

Bill applied to CFNCM for funding to build catch basins where the surface is washing out in Townsend Harbor.

Other projects and events

The Townsend Historical Society's Harbor Village project has started. Gary is working on

the Harbor Church inside and out. A group is looking at reviving the Grist Mill.

We received a request from a person who wants to plant milkweed along the trail. Bill will suggest planting along the approach to Sterilite.

We expect to hear at the end of this month about a Community Grant from the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council. If we receive funding, we will try to schedule a fence construction workday for May.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on February 21, 2024 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Schedule next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.