

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dale Gates, Dan Hager, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Cheryl Rideout (guest), Joan Wotkowicz

Guest: Cheryl Rideout

Status of Phase 4 construction

Gary expects to finish stone dust on the Groton section today. The Townsend section is not finished. Pete Carson will check on progress tomorrow. We will not officially open the trail until seeding.

Culvert near Shepherds

Gary repaired the culvert near the fisherman parking lot as much as possible, but we may be required to do more extensive work when Mass Highway repairs a culvert under Rt. 119.

Gary requested an additional \$15K for the culvert repairs. A motion to authorize the payment was seconded and passed unanimously.

Close out MassTrails grant for Phase 4

We received all of this year's MassTrails funding and need to submit a final report.

Plans for opening celebration

The event will be on Saturday, June 1 from noon until 3:00. Bill hired a musician to play from 12:00 to 1:00. Peter is arranging for a food truck from the Publick House and Cherry Hill Too will be open.

Presentations will be from 1:00 to 2:00 and a trail walk will follow. Bill will get a trailer on wheels to serve as a stage.

Parking will be at Cherry Hill Too. Bill will ask Rick Bailey about police detail for safe road

crossing.

Other events

Townsend Earth Day – This Saturday 10-3. Mark, Bruce, Bill, and Cheryl will host our table. (Bill and Cheryl will also be running a CPA table.) Joan will make a handout.

Groton River Fest - June 9 if we want to host a table there.

Townsend Youth Soccer Association – May 5 Goal-a-Thon event from 10 to 4. Squannacook Greenways will have a table to collect CPA signatures.

Plans for fence installation

We won a grant from the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council for \$4,789. Once stone dust is down, Mark will take measurements and start laying out the fence. He estimates six sections of fencing are needed along steep areas near the fisherman's parking lot.

The grant includes funding for signage at road crossings. Pete will look at signs other rail trails have used. Our signs should include logos for the W&S Stewardship council, National Park Service, MassTrails, and Squannacook Greenways.

Other maintenance/projects

Peter plans to clean up pinecones. Pete will put some plants in the road crossing islands.

The Townsend Conservation Commission gave administrative approval for James to cut down 2-3 trees that were hanging over the trail near the fisherman's parking lot. Stumps and roots are to be left intact. Joan and Paul asked for the firewood.

The bricks at Bertozzi could use a kiosk and

some plantings.

Bruce noted we will need certificates of compliance from the two town Conservation Commissions to complete the Orders of Conditions.

Joan circulated a draft letter she would like to send to MassDEP from Squannacook Greenways as part of a campaign by MA Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals urging DEP to simplify their wetland permitting process for trails. A motion to send the letter was seconded and approved unanimously.

Groton CPA grant application for east extension

Our \$30K request to fund engineering and permitting is scheduled for vote at Groton's special town meeting tentatively on May 11.

Meehan Bridge

Bill and Peter attended a meeting about the Meehan bridge with Margaret Scarsdale, Gary, representatives from NHESP and Fish & Wildlife, and the Townsend Town Administrator. Bill plans to walk the trail with Stan Dillis and Gary this week to decide if the project is feasible.

Other grant applications

- BJA grant application for historical railroad display – No decision yet.
- CFNCM grant application for washout repairs – We did not win this grant.

Financial report/other fundraising

We will have around \$15K left in the budget after construction and fencing are finished.

Bill filled out the form we need to submit to the IRS as a non-profit. A motion to accept the form was seconded and approved unanimously. We need to hire a CPA again this year to audit our books.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from March 13, 2024 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Schedule next meeting

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.