

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Attending:

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

Guests: Emma Grazier, Frank Murphy

Board resignations

Joan does not plan to run for re-election in September, so we will need a new Clerk and a grant writer. Also, Pete Carson has resigned, so we have an opening for Vice President. We entered an executive session to discuss possible new directors.

A motion to elect Emma Grazier, of Townsend, to join our Board of Directors was seconded and approved. Emma and Joan will connect to review Clerk and grant writer tasks.

Frank Murphy, of Groton, may be interested in joining our Board.

Phase 4 wrap-up

Bill submitted our final report for the MassTrails grant with help from Joan. MassTrails will schedule a walk-through to officially close out the grant.

In Townsend, we amended our OOC to repair the bridges in Townsend Harbor, so we will not close out the Orders of Conditions until the work is done. In the meantime, we scheduled a workday for **Saturday, August 10** to cut open wattles and spill out the straw. Tools required will be a mallet for loosening the stakes and box cutter to slit the netting.

In Groton, we will remove the wattles and then request a certificate of compliance and site walk.

Open grant applications

Peter followed up with the Groton Community Preservation Act committee about their kickoff meeting with grant recipients. He will solicit three bids.

Bruce J. Anderson grants are typically announced in July. Our application is for a railroad display near Depot Street.

Townsend Community Preservation Act

Bill has 330 signatures and needs 350 to get the CPA on the November ballot. He plans to hold a few more signature collection days.

Financial report/other fundraising

Bill reported \$2,500 remaining in our budget after upcoming expenses for granite benches, road crossing dividers, and an audit.

Update on Townsend Historical Society projects

Construction is underway to renovate the Harbor Church and old fire station in Townsend Harbor, using the rail trail as a connector through the historic village.

Sidewalk in Townsend Harbor

The sidewalk project in Townsend Harbor has unfortunately stalled because quotes came in much higher than the grant budget. The MassTrails grant requires work to be finished by June.

Plans for fence installation

We will hold off on building fencing near the fisherman parking lot until we know what is required by MassDOT to fix the culvert, because heavy equipment might need access to the

culvert under the rail trail.

Other maintenance / projects / events

Bill would like kiosks at the fisherman parking lot and near the engraved bricks at Bertozzi, if we can raise the funds. The kiosk at Depot Street donated by the Townsend Community Couples Club cost \$800. Peter will reach out to Boy Scout Troop 3.

Joan pointed out some maintenance items that need to be addressed:

- The trash barrel behind Sterilite has been overflowing and smelly for weeks. The one at Depot St. is also full.
- Some patches of knotweed plants are growing back in Townsend Harbor.
- Two of the No ATV signs are badly deteriorated and need to be removed.
- A low granite block across the trail at the end of Gary's parking area could pose a hazard.

Meehan Bridge

The Chair of the Townsend Board of Selectman is handling communication with Fish & Wildlife about the status of the paperwork related to the project.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on May 22, 2024 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 14, 2024** at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.