

Squannacook Greenways, Inc. | August 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Attendees

Directors

Peter Cunningham, Bill Rideout, Linda Mack, Frank Murphy, Mark Cram, Dan Hager, Emma Grazier

Guests

Grace Belmont (MRPC), Andrew Shepherd (Townsend Planning Board)

Action Items

- **Bill** to request closure of Order of Conditions at 80 Main St. (complete)
- **Bill** to talk to highway commissioner about Harbor signage and offer that SRRT will pay for signs and installation, if needed
- **Bill** to ask Nia to send a brief write up to the Board that outlines safety precautions for her proposed event, particularly regarding road crossings (complete)

Notes

Meeting called to order 7:02 PM

0. Guest Speaker: Grace Belmont (MRPC) [25 minutes]

- Grace Belmont of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) presented on possibilities for improving connectivity between Rt. 119 and the SRRT in the NMRHS/Hannaford Plaza area.
- Grace noted that her ideas are peripheral to her work on the MRPC's forthcoming Rt. 119 Corridor Study (she's focused on walkability/safety near the high school).
- Grace is coming to the SRRT Board to engage in an informal brainstorming session only, as she views us as a key stakeholder with a demonstrated history of engaging with the Townsend community.
- Grace suggested that Andrew Shepherd join/listen in as a representative of the Townsend Planning Board.
- Grace's observations about the NMRHS/Hannaford Plaza area:
 - Unnecessary traffic congestion from tons of driveways with little interconnectivity
 - No vehicle or official pedestrian access between commercial properties
 - Footprints and tire tracks indicate that pedestrians are accessing businesses from the rail trail, but the access points could be more clearly marked and welcoming
- Potential solution:
 - Create a cohesive, internal route for traversing between the businesses and make the road pedestrian-friendly as well
 - Connect the Harbor Village Mall access road to the SRRT (adding bike lanes, improving the dirt path to the trail, etc.)
- **SRRT Board discussion:**

- **Agree that increased connectivity between Rt. 119, Hannaford Plaza businesses, and the SRRT is aligned with our vision and goals**
- **Decline to spearhead the effort - feel it's more appropriate for the Town of Townsend to lead this public/private collaboration and pursue funding**

1. Project Updates [20 minutes]

- **Groton Extension**
 - No updates - waiting on MassTrails Grant decision
 - Groton CPA Committee notified about need to revise our grant application
- **Townsend Harbor**
 - 8/6 ZBA meeting (trestle bridges)
 - Board discussed meeting purpose and outcome
 - SRRT will take no further action
 - 80 Main St. ConCom notification + order of conditions
 - **Linda moved to close Order of Conditions. Bill seconded. All in favor.**
 - Harbor signage
 - Need signs on the road to direct people through the light (main trail goes to the light)
 - **Bill to talk to highway commissioner and have SG offer to pay for the signs and installation if needed**
- **Townsend Extension**
 - Greystone Realty application update - things are moving forward

2. Maintenance & Events [5 minutes]

- Harbor fence project complete
- Mowing update
- Recap 7/15 trail walk w/ Indigenous Landscape Initiative (InLand) (see attachment)
 - **Board to review proposal and invite James Gates to the next meeting when we discuss w/ Shlomiya.**
- Nia Raine road race question:
 - Can she hold a short race where runners pay to participate (homeschool group)?
 - **Bill will ask Nia to send a brief write up to the Board that outlines safety precautions, particularly regarding road crossings.**

3. Grants [5 minutes]

- **MassTrails Grant**
 - State reached out 7/28 to confirm that the decision is delayed and all applications are still under review.
- **MassDEP EV Charging Grant**
 - Would SG be interested in pursuing and/or teaming on a [grant application for EV charging?](#)

- Yes, Board generally interested. **Emma will keep tabs on this.**

- **Townsend CPA Committee update**

- Bylaw approval delayed at state level

4. Fundraising & Financial Report [2 minutes]

- Reviewed fundraising & financial reports

5. Review [June Meeting Minutes](#) (no meeting in July) [2 minutes]

- Bill moved to approve June meeting minutes. Peter seconded. All in favor.

6. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn [1 minute]

Wednesday, September 24 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:22 PM