

Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee (Townsend)

Minutes of Public Meeting of Feb. 17, 2011

Location: Memorial Hall, Townsend, MA

Time: 7:00 pm

Members Present: Steve Meehan (Chairman), Bill Rideout (Secretary), Mark Cram

Members Absent: Bill Martin, Hirk Fortin

Attendees: Peter Cunningham, Russ Murray, Pete Carson (Groton committee), Al Futterman (NRWA), Joan Wotkowicz, Alfred Gadway, Rollin Willis, Dave Chenelle

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. The first topic was the presentation of the interim report to Townsend's Board of Selectmen. Steve Meehan reported that the Selectmen raised no objections to the alternate sidewalk plan in Townsend Harbor, and that Andy Sheehan said the appropriated funding for the sidewalk design could be used for that work without further town meeting approval. The Townsend Board of Selectmen expressed some concerns about the Wachusett Greenways/DCR approach, including how abutter input would be handled, and so put off a decision on writing a letter of support. Bill Rideout noted that getting the town behind the sidewalk proposal was the driving reason for pushing for this meeting, so that he was satisfied with the outcome of the BOS meeting. Bill also noted that he had contacted Andy Sheehan after the meeting, offering to assist him at any time with this sidewalk work, and had received positive feedback from Andy.

The next topic was the status of DCR negotiations. The meeting held with DCR in Boston on Feb 9, 2011 was discussed. The meeting was very positive, and the basic outcome was that Squannacook Greenways should write a draft Memorandum of Agreement to discuss at the next meeting meeting between DCR and Squannacook Greenways.

The Townsend minutes for Jan. 20, 2010 were unanimously approved as amended by Steve Meehan. The next topic of discussion was whether it made sense for the town rail trail committee to keep meeting on a regular basis. It was decided that it made more sense to simply call the next meeting when negotiations between DCR and Squannacook Greenways either succeeded or failed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rideout
Secretary, Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee