

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2017

Attending:

Peter Carson, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Recap of Past Events

Earth Day

Mark, Bill and Cheryl Rideout, and Steve set up on the Townsend common on Saturday, April 22. Our table was visited mostly by supporters. The weather was cold and damp, so attendance was low.

Trail cleanup

On Saturday April 29, members of our board and about 10 volunteers collected about 33 bags near Harbor Village and 10 bags in Townsend center. As this was our second annual cleanup, there was significantly less trash than last year.

Buy-a-Brick fundraiser

We reopened brick sales from April 22 (Earth Day) to May 6. We sold about 21 more bricks, putting our total at 170. Our capital campaign is now at \$91K.

Publicity

Don suggested we issue a press release, as people who are not on Facebook or our email list do not know our status.

Bill will announce Family Day at the schools, which will get the word out. We will also post the event in the newspaper, along with an update on our progress.

Bill will make a video and post it on YouTube. Peter Carson will look at making a Google page.

Environmental Permitting

Bruce prepared 16 maps that include the trail re-route in Townsend Harbor and other details. Before we can submit our permit application, we

need to demonstrate access to the properties we do not own.

Townsend Historical Society / other abutter activity

Mark and Bill met with the society's board of directors, who agreed to write an email about the easement through their property once we submit a plot plan. An engineering contractor is scheduled to work on the plot plan by mid-summer. The cost for engineering will be covered under our DCR grant.

We also need to demonstrate access to the staging property. Bill will request a letter of intent for the lease.

A motion to authorize Bill to spend up to \$1,200 for the lease was seconded and approved unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Family Day on the Rail Trail

Bill sent out an email newsletter announcing our first annual family day on Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Rain date will be Sunday, June 4.

We will meet at the Depot Street entrance in Townsend center. Kids activities will be set up along the rail trail to Harbor Church.

Nashoba Paddlers will bring rental boats to Townsend Harbor. Groton Turtle Committee has agreed to set up a table.

Joan, Steve, Peter Cunningham, and tentatively Don will help out. Bill will send the information to Joan, who will prepare a flyer.

Groton River Festival

Peter Cunningham will set up a table on Sunday, June 11, 11:00 to 4:00. Steve will help in the afternoon.

*Community Foundation of North Central
Massachusetts*

CFNCM has invited us to a Donor Appreciation & Grant Distribution Event on Thursday, June 15 at 4:30 PM at the Apple Hill Farm Country Club in Leominster. Joan and Bill will attend if we win their grant.

Massachusetts Trails Conference

Amanda Lewis sent an email announcing the upcoming conference on November 3-4 at the Double Tree Inn in Leominster.

DCR has invited proposals for presentations and for field trips to projects within a 10 mile bus ride of the conference. We will submit a proposal to host a site walk.

Grant Activity

Bruce J. Anderson

No activity. We requested \$10K and decisions are expected this month. (In 2016, we received an award letter on June 28.)

*Community Foundation of North Central
Massachusetts*

We submitted our full proposal requesting \$20K on April 18. Grant notifications are expected in early June. (In 2013, we received an award letter on June 13.)

CFNCM moved us from the General Endowment category to the Animal Welfare / Environment category (Doyle Fund) because they determined we may be suitable for other pools of funding.

Financial Report

Bill distributed the current report. Total equity is at \$88K.

Review of Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our April 12, 2017 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, June 14, 2017** at the **Groton Legion**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.