

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Environmental permitting

Before we file our application, we need to finalize the access/staging areas for construction and submit, at a minimum, a letter and map with our plan. Bill and Steve are working to obtain the necessary permissions.

Motorized vehicle issues

Jennifer Petit expressed a concern about disruption of turtle habitat due to ATVs using the trail. She gave Steve an example of signage she would like to have posted. While we do not want to post signs that ban ATVs at this time, we are in favor of posting signs that request all trail users to be cautious in areas of turtle activity. We would like to review the signs first, to ensure consistency with rail trail messaging.

Townsend Police Dept's National Community Event

Bill and Steve represented the rail trail at this well-attended event. They talked with 20-30 visitors to our table, with positive support and several new sign-ups for our e-mail list.

Townsend Land Trust wants to do a joint trail walk that would include town trails, possibly on New Year's Day. The proposed route would be down the rail trail and across Main St. to town land on the other side of Rt. 119.

Fundraising

Grant updates

The DCR trails grant will be our next big effort. Joan will contact Amanda Lewis to ask about requirements that we can prepare in advance.

Bruce will get contact information for Ellen Anderson, who is certified by the state of MA to provide real estate appraisals.

Status of Buy-a-Brick

The pallet of bricks was delivered to Joan and Paul's house on July 31. Joan partially opened the shrink wrap and inspected bricks on the top layer before signing off on the delivery. The pallet is stored out of the way indoors.

New fundraising

Bill is working on letters to businesses in Townsend and Groton. Steve and Bill have been invited to give a talk at the next Townsend Business Association.

Financial report

Current total is almost \$112K.

Upcoming events and activities

DCR Trails Conference - Nov 2-4 at the Double Tree Inn, Leominster. Cost is \$40. Our field trip was not selected.

Celebration at corporate headquarters

Tentative for Sept 24. Short bike ride before barbeque.

Fall Trail Walk

Bill would like to do another public walk, perhaps with the Historical Society.

Joan brought up an idea of inviting the NRWA Wild and Scenic River team to participate on a walk. She will talk to Al Futterman and/or Bill Wilkinson.

Construction Costs

Mark obtained a new quote from Iron Horse with a lowest price of \$120K, which is limited to three inches of stone dust and our own labor for tree removal. Mark will get another estimate for removal of rails and ties and grading only.

Review of meeting minutes

Minutes of our July 19, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously with two abstentions.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, September 13** at 7:00 PM at the **Groton Legion**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.