

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2018

Attending:

Peter Carson, Peter Cunningham, Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Joan Wotkowicz

This meeting was rescheduled from February 7 due to weather.

### **IRS-conflict of interest forms**

Directors in attendance signed conflict of interest forms. At our next meeting, we will need forms from Mark Cram, Bruce Easom, and Bill Rideout.

Steve noted that our bylaws state that we should have an audit and also an annual report. He recommended we discuss and address these items.

### **Status of environmental permit application**

Cedwyn reported that our draft form was completed and mailed on February 5 to Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) for review. He expects 4-6 weeks for review by Dave Paulson. After review, we'll submit the final version.

We celebrated this milestone achievement and the contributions from Bruce Easom, Cedwyn Morgan, and Mark Cram.

Cedwyn asked if we should start talking to local boards now that the application is submitted. In particular, Conservation Commissions will want to know about the NHESP activity. We can bring them up to speed, as we haven't updated them in a while. Cedwyn will contact Bruce and Mark to see if they concur. Bruce may lead the discussion in Townsend, while Cedwyn leads in Groton.

The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) will be distributed to state agencies. Since turtles are involved, MassWildlife will be key.

### **Update on property appraisal and acquisition**

Peter Cunningham reported that we submitted an offer to the realtor, which was declined.

### **Groton Conservation Forum**

Steve plans to attend on Feb 15 at Lawrence Academy. This is the fourth or fifth event and he has attended all. He noted that this gathering is well attended by environmentally minded people from the Groton region.

### **Montachusett Regional Planning Commission Trail Inventory**

We discussed whether to include the rail trail in the MRPC's updated trails inventory. Bill is concerned that the trail currently lacks signage, and we cannot install signs until NHESP permitting is complete.

We noted several benefits to publicizing the trail, even without signage. The listing may serve as additional justification in our applications for grants and permits. Joan pointed out that many of the inventoried trails are obscure mountain bike trails with no signage.

We agreed that adding the trail to the MRPC map is low risk as it would not necessarily affect the number of users. If necessary, we can place signs at Harbor Church to route users in front of Reed Homestead.

Steve will inform Bill of our preference for listing the rail trail on the MRPC inventory as "future" rail trail.

### **Grant Activity**

Massachusetts Recreational Trails - Deadline was February 15, 2018. We did not apply.

Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts - We did not apply.

Wildlife Habitat Management - Cedwyn circulated an email about this small grant opportunity. We may want to apply in a year or two to fund projects once the trail is permitted and built. Joan noted that this may be a way to obtain tools or supplies for use by volunteers in controlling bittersweet or other invasive plants.

### **Fundraising and financial report**

No report as our Treasurer is on vacation.

### **CFNCM interim grant report**

Joan reported that our mandatory report was submitted to Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, with help from Steve and Bill. She noted that our web site and meeting minutes have become valuable resources for use in writing grant applications and reports. She also pointed out that we have built up a long list of activities and accomplishments, which strengthen our grant justifications.

### **Business cards**

Joan distributed new cards and has more available.

### **Review of January meeting minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from our January 3, 2018 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously, with one abstention.

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### **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, March 14** at 7:00 PM at the **Groton Legion Hall**.

Pete has reserved the Legion Hall.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

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