

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2018

Attending:

Peter Carson, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Distribute FST 2008 study

Joan distributed leftover binders from the 2008 Environmental and Engineering Assessment, given to us by Al Futterman.

Report on Townsend's Earth Day

Mark, Don, Steve, Bill, Cheryl Rideout, and Joan staffed our table on the town common. With great weather, there was a lot of traffic and sign-ups for our email list. Our handout was entitled "Countdown to Construction."

Bill had a conversation with Danielle Gagnon, an abutter, who may be interested in working with us.

Report on Girl Scout walk

Irene Congdon invited us to walk the rail trail with the Townsend Girl Scouts on Monday, May 7. Joan went to the meeting place at Apple Meadow but found no one there.

Joan suggested that we encourage people to begin using the parking area on Depot St. near the intersection of Center St. She requested that we post a map on our web site showing the parking area and asking trail users to please respect local businesses by not parking in their lots.

Report on Wild and Scenic Rivers

At the Earth Day event on the Townsend Common, the board members present agreed to support the designation of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitisset Rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Joan reported that the town meeting article passed in Townsend and Groton and thanked the board for support. The designation will have implications for our rail trail, as the Stewardship

Plan recommends protecting rail trails for their significant recreational and scenic value.

Donor Appreciation Event at the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

This event is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Fitchburg Art Museum. Joan noted that she and Ray Jackson attended last year and she found it very interesting to hear about philanthropic accomplishments in our region.

Register online by June 8.

ATVs on trail

Joan noted that motorcycles have been using the trail regularly in Townsend. Paul Sebring has observed new tracks on almost a daily basis, possibly after school.

We have been hesitant to post signs before now because no one is on the trail for enforcement. However, as summer is coming and motorcycle use may increase, we reconsidered signage.

Pete Cunningham will look at inexpensive signs from Vistaprint, which we can replace if they disappear. Tentative text for the signs:

Biking and walking are encouraged on trail. Motorized vehicles are not permitted per MBTA lease.

- Squannacook Greenways (with logo)

We will also post on our web site and Facebook. Joan asked that we include this in our next email newsletter, along with a message about using the parking area.

Status of environmental permit application

Cedwyn mailed two hard copies of our Environmental Notification Form (ENF) to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office and one to the Natural Heritage

& Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on May 1. The mailing included our \$1,800 fee and a copy of the lease.

He also mailed out 17 letters with the URL, including five each to the various Townsend and Groton boards, and posted a legal notice in the Nashoba Voice. The URL for the completed ENF form is:

http://www.squannacookriverrailtrail.org/enf_2018.html.

Natural Heritage is expected to respond in 30 days (in about two weeks).

Cedwyn pointed out that we also need to submit a highway cut permit with MassDOT for the parking area near Shepherd's. Pete Cunningham offered to reach out to Arthur Frost.

Pre-submission consultation with Conservation Commissions

Bruce and Mark consulted with members of the Townsend Conservation Commission, who were appreciative of the advanced notice. The next step will be to submit an RDA form.

Peter Cunningham will schedule a meeting with the Groton Conservation Commission.

Fundraising and financial report

New expenses this month include:

- \$1,800 for the Natural Heritage fee
- \$143.40 to publish the legal notice in the local newspaper
- \$40.65 for printing and postage costs

A motion to reimburse these costs was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill will submit a request for grant reimbursement to DCR so our budget will be up to date. We can submit the remainder later. Joan will send Bill the tally of labor hours for the grant match.

Townsend Master Plan

Bill announced that the Townsend Master Plan Committee will host two public meetings:

- Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 6:30-8:30 at the Townsend Public Library

- Saturday, June 2 at 9:30-11:30 at Memorial Hall

Upcoming Events

The Thoreau Society plans to walk our trail on July 11.

Groton RiverFest will be on June 10. Joan will print more flyers and get them to Pete Cunningham.

Review of meeting minutes

Minutes from our April 11 meeting were approved unanimously.

Minutes from our April 21 meeting at Townsend Earth Day were approved unanimously with four abstentions.

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk