

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2018

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Ray Jackson, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

### **Status of MEPA Notification Form**

Bill received a certificate from the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on our ENF, dated August 10, 2018. This means we have passed another major milestone. We reviewed some of the comments provided, but will need more time to study the document before we can address it thoroughly.

We discussed possible protocols we could establish for re-vegetation with native species. These should be part of the contract when we put out an invitation for construction bids.

We will need a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction permit from the EPA. Cedwyn suggested we could also make this part of the request for bids. Bill suggested we might also hire an experienced environmental permitting firm like VHB to complete the permit.

We also need highway access from DOT for the parking lot.

At our next meeting, we will dissect the certificate document further and list any additional items we need to address.

### **Status of Groton Conservation Commission permit application**

Pete Cunningham, Pete Carson, and Cedwyn will begin working on our Notice of Intent (NOI) for Groton. Once we have filed, the commission will have 21 days to schedule a hearing, followed by 21 days to appeal.

### **Status of Townsend Conservation Commission permit application**

Our original plan was to hold until we submit in Groton, but we may need to move forward if we want to start construction this year.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow the permitting subcommittee to submit to Townsend at the time of their choice. Cedwyn will contact Bruce about this change of plans.

### **Construction plans**

Our timetable for construction depends on several factors, including:

- If we are to start construction in November, we need to have permits in hand.
- The soonest we could obtain a permit in Groton under the best of conditions is end of September.
- Mark's construction plan will need to be updated with whatever requirements the Conservation Commissions add.
- We also need to develop a bid package.

Conservation Commission permits are valid for more than one year, in case we do not make the deadline to start construction this year.

We can also consider taking up the rails and ties in year one and completing the trail in year two. However, this would mean putting up erosion controls twice.

### **Townsend Police National Night Out**

Bill and Steve hosted a table at the new high school on August 7, with a few new email signups and a positive experience overall.

### **Community Foundation final report**

Joan submitted the final report to CFNCM on July 31. That closes out the requirements for our

grant award. She thanked Cheryl Rideout for pitching in.

### **Fundraising and financial report**

We received \$3,200 from our DCR grant. Total cash is \$115K.

### **Review of meeting minutes**

A motion to accept the revised minutes from our meeting on July 18, 2018 was seconded and passed unanimously with one abstention.

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### **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, September 26** at the **Groton Legion**.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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