

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2019

Attending:

Rick Bailey, Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Ray Jackson, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

We added this online meeting in between our regularly scheduled meetings to vote on a proposal to construct a bridge over the Squannacook River at Old Meetinghouse Road.

Old Meetinghouse Road bridge

We received a proposal from a donor who wished to remain anonymous for a pedestrian and bicycle-only bridge over the Squannacook River. It will be a great connection to the Timberlee Park section of town. A hurricane in 1938 destroyed the original bridge and it was never replaced.

Bill followed up with the donor on several of our initial questions and concerns. Pete Cunningham wants to make sure it does not pull us away from our core mission. Bill will ask Ducharme & Dillis to handle all the permitting.

Bill said this will probably be the donor's construction project for next year. We should have the section of rail trail from the center of town to Old Meetinghouse Road completely finished by then.

Ray asked about the muddy section of Old Meetinghouse Road. The donor will add fill and clear the sides to give access.

Old Meetinghouse is still a town road, so our first step will probably be to go in front of the Selectmen. Ray asked if Town Meeting is required to make it a pedestrian road. Pete Cunningham said it's still a town road, so the Selectmen have authority. Abutters may object to more people coming through what were previously dead ends.

Rick said it might not be necessary to get approval from the Townsend Police. While there is some ATV and motorcycle activity in the neighborhood, a bridge should not cause an increase.

Pete Carson asked if there was any issue with a bridge that does not support emergency vehicles. Pete Cunningham said they have not had access since 1938. This was not an issue with Fitch's Bridge.

A motion to name the bridge the Steve Meehan Bridge was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to proceed with the plan to ask Stan Dillis to quote on permitting, submit the plan to the town Selectman, and be the owner of the bridge, as long as it does not impact rail trail construction, was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill will contact Stan. He will speak with Dave Meehan about naming the bridge after Steve. Also, he will contact the closest abutter who has horses.

Joan asked if we should reach out to the Selectmen in advance of meeting with them. Pete Cunningham said that's a good idea. Bill will send emails or make phone calls after we are sure the plan is feasible with the donor and Stan.

Pete Cunningham asked about NHESP permitting. We will leave that up to Stan.

Parking lot permitting

Stan said the town board is extremely slow during the pandemic.

Grist Mill bridge permitting

Joan said she sent an email to Dave Henkels asking if the Conservation Commission has

considered our responses to their questions, but he has not replied.

Bids for this year's construction

Bill is scheduled to walk the trail with Max13 tomorrow, August 27, weather permitting, meeting at Central Plaza at 1:00 PM. Joan and Ray will join.

Gary Shepherd said he'll give a better price than other bids.

Graniteville Materials in Westford has offered us a price break on aggregate. This information was passed on to potential bidders.

Joan said Dale White of Leighton White Construction gave the ITB to his estimator. Joan also contacted Amos T. White who said he will look over the specs and ITB. She will call these contractors for an update.

She also uploaded the ITB to the Massachusetts Central Register.

She sent the bid docs and left a voice mail for Dave Sears, who was our connection to the rail removal contractors, but has not heard back.

Mark said Powell's may be too busy to do our project. He will ask them to bids anyway, as we need three bids for the DCR contract.

Joan reminded us to use the revised ITB with a correction on the bid page.

Peter Cunningham confirmed with Dave Paulson that the area near Depot Street does not include the slope stabilization and is located within the existing pull off or lawn/landscaped areas. Therefore, construction can start in this area prior to November 7.

Bill pointed out that we must use the DCR money by June 21, so we cannot miss this window and use the money next year.

Rail removal

Jeff Greene of JMG Metal Trading submitted a bid for removing the rail at no cost to us, along with a donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

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