

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Attending:

Rick Bailey, Peter Carson, Mark Cram,
Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dan Hager,
Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Construction status

Shepherd's work crew finished laying stone dust in the resource area and moved their equipment out. They are now working near the storage units. They expect to complete everything, including the parking lot, by the end of next week.

Gary would like to use ground asphalt for the parking lot, if available from the town. There were no objections.

Upcoming tasks include:

- Seeding the sides of the trail when the weather warms. Bill, Pete, Peter, Joan, and Bruce will monitor for turtles.
- Review of the wetland replication by Stan Dillis.
- Sterilite fence repair and east gate enlargement for Unitil.
- Kiosk construction. Peter will contact Nashoba Tech and Bill will ask Townsend Eagle Scouts about volunteer projects.

Bill said our Facebook page is full of positive feedback.

Fence along steep drop

Bill asked Max13 to give us a quote for building 375–400 feet of wooden fence along the steep drop behind Sterilite. Paul Bourgeois estimated \$13.6K for 48 inch tall pressure-treated fence with 4x4 foot posts six feet apart (67 posts) and three rails. Chris Overton will also quote.

We decided to tackle the job ourselves. Bruce will bring a tractor with auger and Dan will get a trailer to transport it. Mark estimated materials at about \$5K. He will make a drawing and list of materials. **We will work the weekend of April 23.**

Dan said we have to call DigSafe three days ahead and then we'll have 30 days to finish. He will bring white flags.

Improvements to demo tracks

James Gates saw Mark's picture of a demonstration railroad track on another rail trail and is willing to help us make improvements to ours. We will start this project after we finish the fence.

Old Meetinghouse Road

Mark cautioned against inviting people to use Old Meetinghouse Road to access the completed section of trail. We will wait until the Depot Street lot is ready before announcing the trail is open.

He also recommended a Stop sign at the approach to Old Meetinghouse Road. Bill purchased and installed a sign.

Mark shared a drawing of a teardrop-shaped divider with bricks or granite cobblestones and plants, as a safer alternative to a bollard at Old Meetinghouse Road. Chris Overton offered to build it for us.

People have asked Bill where to park a horse trailer. There is room on Depot Street or at the end of Old Meetinghouse Road.

Letter of donated services to Shepherd's

James Gates requested a note from us to substantiate Shepherd's volunteer hours on the

rail trail. A motion to approve the letter was seconded and approved unanimously.

Sediment in culvert

Gary Shepherd voiced a concern to Joan about the new culvert that drains water from the fields at Almost There Farm. Gary thinks a longer-term solution is needed to handle sediment, which is already depositing. He said a deeper retention area with trap rock will catch sediment for many years. Joan reminded him that we cannot bring heavy equipment in again until next winter.

Mark reminded us that Kevin Smith wanted the culvert fixed, so he may be willing to cooperate. We decided to wait until next November.

No Motor Vehicle signs

Pete ordered more metal signs and Joan ordered more large foam board signs that warn against motorized use. Pete will replace the missing ones and add one at Harbor Church.

Depot Street parking lot

Joan announced that Townsend won a Shared Streets grant for \$183K, which will be used for improving walking and biking around the center of town. The grant will provide a bench, bike rack, bike repair stand, and self-standing "You Are Here" sign for the Depot Street parking lot. These have been installed by May 30 per the grant requirements.

Grist Mill bridge repair

The Townsend Conservation Commission approved our request for an amended OOC to resurface the bridge. This will be a low-priority project for now.

Trail work days

Pete and Joan have observed and partially cleaned up litter in Groton and Townsend, particularly in the area behind Hannaford's. We will hopefully hold a public cleanup event in

summer.

Meehan Bridge project status

Stan Dillis is still working on the plans.

Financial report

We will pay Gary the last check when the parking lot is finished. He will do the hydro-seeding later.

Other events/publicity/fundraising

Bill will reopen the Buy-a-Brick until the end of April and then Chris will install the bricks. Now that the trail is there, selling shirts and other fundraising should be more effective.

We'll have a grand opening once the state allows gatherings, maybe in June.

Review minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from our March 10, 2021 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, May 5, 2021** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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