

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2015

Attending:

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

Visitor: Bonnie Lawrence, Laer Realty Partners

Review of Townsend Earth Day

Visitors to our booth were positive and 33 people signed up for the email list. Many were interested in a connection to the Nashua River Rail Trail.

We may be able to put together an informal route using signage via Fitch's Bridge or the Throne area. Peter Carson will explore.

Status of People for Bikes grant application

Joan submitted our full proposal. Grant awards (up to \$10,000) will be announced at the end of May. We collected several new letters of support (Gear Works, Boulder Bikes, Evans on the Common, Option One Fitness, and Niki Tsongas) that we have on file for possible reuse.

Visitor from Laer Realty

Bonnie Lawrence is a realtor working on the sale of a home that abuts the rail trail. She attended our meeting to learn more details about the trail.

Capital campaign planning / Campaign flyer

We have 150 flyers printed and are now ready to officially kick off our capital campaign. Bill intends to start visiting potential donors and Joan offered to accompany him.

Don noted that corporations are approaching the end of their fiscal year at end of June, so we should approach them during this time frame.

Ideas include the Townsend Business Association, Groton Rotary Club, Hannaford's Supermarket, and the new Patriot Pizza.

Joan designed remittance envelopes for people who might prefer to send a check by mail. The envelopes are addressed to Community Foundation/Squannacook Greenways Fund. She will print 25 copies and buy postage stamps.

Several people have inquired about making donations that may not be in the price range of the capital campaign. For these donors, we will follow up with a second stage of fundraising, including requests for donations via email.

Publicity / Earth Day flyer

We distributed 36 flyers at our booth on the Townsend Common. Joan printed out 50 more copies for use at the Groton Riverfest and other events.

Letters to Abutters

Bill distributed a list of talking points and a form for abutter visits. We discussed plans for erecting privacy fences, including the option of waiting a year.

Don noted that Townsend requires a permit for installing a fence. He will look into the regulations.

Townsend has 23 non-commercial abutters and Groton has ~15. We won't be able to visit everyone at once, so we may need to send our letters in phases, such as by neighborhood.

Steve will edit the letter to add a reference to Bob Hargraves as an abutter to the Nashua River Rail Trail.

Financial report/ Review of tax forms due May 15

We added \$6,600 in donations this month for a balance of \$32,307.

A motion to submit our form 990 to the IRS and Commonwealth of Massachusetts was unanimously approved.

A motion to authorize payment of \$35 to the IRS for form 990 was unanimously approved.

Turtle Conservation

Al, Mark, Cedwyn, and Bruce met with Darcy Donald and Emily Norton of Groton Turtle Conservation, as well as Jennifer Petit. They learned about a project that Emily worked on in Sudbury and another by Emily and Jennifer at the Townsend TAYSA soccer fields that reduced turtle mortality.

David Paulson, Endangered Species Review Biologist at MA Natural Heritage is speaking at the NRWA on April 29 at 7:00. He will meet with us informally before the presentation at 5:30.

Insurance

Foster Insurance was unable to find a source for general liability insurance, so Bill contacted an agent he met at a seminar for insuring non-profits. Cedwyn noted that Ashby Land Trust has liability insurance.

New Townsend Selectman

Gordy Clark is now a Selectman. Steve will contact him to invite him to attend one of our meetings and learn about the rail trail.

Bill will contact outgoing Selectman Sue Lisio to invite her to join our board.

Executive Session

The Board of Directors met in executive session to discuss encroachment issues and excavation for the new Townsend fire station.

Groton Riverfest

The event is Sunday, June 7 - rain or shine.

Review of Meeting Minutes

We unanimously approved the minutes of our March 31, 2015 meeting, with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, May 27** at the **NRWA**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.