

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2015

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Al Futterman, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Recruitment for new board member

Sue Lisio showed interest in joining but has decided to decline. We discussed other possible candidates for board membership.

Publicity/outreach

New Townsend selectman Gordy Clark expressed interest in attending tonight's meeting but had a conflict. Steve Meehan and Bill will meet with him outside of our meeting schedule.

Bill is giving a presentation at Haystack about the rail trail with slides that might be useful for other outreach.

Pete Carson explained how we might use our Twitter account.

If we win the People for Bikes grant, it will be an opportunity for a press release.

Our Facebook page gets 5-10 new likes per week.

Status of People for Bikes grant application

We should know by the end of this month if we were selected.

Capital campaign

Bill had three meetings with potential contributors with good results. Combined with donations from our board, we raised \$14,000 since March.

Joan will bring extra flyers and remittance envelopes to our next meeting.

Public easement across Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area

Pat Huckery stated in an email to Bruce Eason on May 19, "As you look for a parking area for bike path users it should be in a different place than the existing parking area on DFW land."

A next step should be to communicate to Pat Huckery that rail trail users will park in a different place than the DFW area.

Other conservation/Natural Heritage

Mark, Bruce, Cedwyn, and Al had a positive meeting with David Paulson of Natural Heritage, who was supportive. He estimated \$4,000 as the application fee for a linear project such as ours and discussed strategies for turtle remediation.

He suggested we start now on our Natural Heritage application. Mark, Bruce, and Cedwyn began documenting with photos and GPS coordinates. David Paulson agreed review our form when it is ready.

Abutter outreach

Bill suggested we engage an engineer to speak with Townsend Historical Society about a plan for delineating the trail from their parking lot. Mark will contact an engineering firm.

Steve put together a sample letter to send to abutters. He will send it to Joan for final formatting, after which Peter Carson will edit with Groton contact information. Joan will then mail merge with the spreadsheet of abutters names and addresses.

Encroachment status

No new developments.

Insurance status

Bill continued to search for general liability insurance, which is required by DCR. He

obtained only one bid, at \$7,000 per year, while Wachusett Greenways pays \$5,000.

A motion to authorize Bill to pay up to \$7,500 for general liability insurance was seconded and passed unanimously.

In the meantime, Bill will continue to research alternatives, including asking the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Review of meeting minutes

A motion to accept the revised minutes from April 28, 2015 was seconded and passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts will hold an appreciation event for fund holders and grant holders Thursday, June 11. Bill plans to attend.

Community Foundation of Lowell also has a grant program, which Bill will look into.

Groton River Festival is Sunday, June 7.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, July 1** at 7:00 P.M. at the **NRWA**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.