

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016

Attending:

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

Groton Conservation Summit

Steve and Ray attended the meeting on Feb 3, with many conservation-related groups represented. Ray gave a brief talk about the rail trail. Steve noted that groups like the Groton Garden Club and Groton Friends of the Trees may be good contacts, for example to gain information about plantings.

Meeting with Interim Townsend Town Administrator

Steve met with Jim Kreidler on Jan 15, who was very supportive of the rail trail and wrote us a letter of support.

Upcoming Meeting with Townsend Historical Society

We sent an abutter letter to the society and they have invited us to their board meeting on Feb 25.

Gravel Roads Workshop

Bay State Roads has announced two workshops, Feb 23 in Pittsfield and Mar 3 in Northampton. This event comes highly recommended by Wachusett Greenways. Mark and Ray have signed up.

Connecting Communities

Freedom's Way Heritage Association approached Ray to ask about a collaborative trail event. An event is tentatively planned for Nov 2016.

Trail Clean-Up

Bill, Mark, Don, and Ray will walk the section in Townsend Harbor to plot out what brush needs to be cleared to open a walking trail.

Although this section is not near wetlands, we will inform the Townsend Conservation of our plans. We will also consider notifying abutters of our activities before using power tools.

Abutter Visits

We discussed potential development at the former Hirsch Lumber property.

Bill will ask Gary Shepherd if Sterilite has any response to their abutter letter.

Nashoba Valley Healthcare

We did not win the grant from CFNCM and Greater Lowell Community Foundation. There were 16 awards made to 18 applications.

Joan will ask for feedback.

DCR Recreational Trails

Cedwyn submitted in January requesting \$6,250 for engineering for trailside parking, trailhead facilities, NHESP permitting costs, and educational signage about safety, environmental protection, and turtle habitat.

Decisions are expected in Sept-Oct. If we win, we will have to provide a labor match to the grant award.

Bruce J. Anderson Foundation

Joan submitted a proposal requesting \$10,000 for both environmental protection and historical preservation. Recommendations for award are expected after their mid-May Board of Directors meeting.

CFNCM

Joan submitted a cover sheet and concept paper requesting \$20,000 from the General Endowment fund. Invitations for full applications will go out the week of March 18, with a due date of Apr 25.

Capital Campaign

Bill will send a sample introductory letter to Pete Carson and Pete Cunningham for use in Groton. He began looking into the next stage of fundraising, including a web site for buy-a-brick campaign.

Conservation/Natural Heritage

Bill drafted a position statement that supports the proposed parking area near Bertozzi. It states the benefits for Fisheries & Wildlife of allowing access to parking on MBTA land.

Al will ask Anne Gagnon for advice and show her a picture of the proposed rail trail parking lot.

Financial Report

Bill reported that our CFNCM stock investment is at a loss, so we may consider shifting to a shorter term funds.

We purchase both general liability and umbrella insurance. The MBTA clarified that it's fine for the contractor to have umbrella insurance instead of us, so we may be able to save some costs. Also, Wachusett Greenways pays much less than we do for liability insurance, so there may be additional cost savings.

Publicity

Townsend Earth Day will be Saturday, April 23.

Groton River Festival will be Sunday, June 19.

Iron Horse

The Iron Horse group contacted Mark for updates on our progress. They would be very interested in working with Gary Shepherd on selling the steel or any other collaborative arrangement.

Meeting Minutes

The corrected meeting minutes from January 13, 2016 were unanimously accepted.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wed March 16**. at the **NRWA**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.