

Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee (Townsend)

Minutes of Public Meeting of April 22, 2010 (Approved June 3, 2010)

Location: Groton Town Hall, Townsend, MA

Time: 8:00 pm

Members Present: Steve Meehan (Chairman), Bill Rideout (Secretary), Ken Gerken, Bill Martin

Members Absent: Hirk Fortin

Attendees: Bruce Easom, Peter Cunningham, Pete Carson (Groton committee), Russ Murray, and Cheryl Rideout

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm. The first agenda item was follow-up with Conrad Crawford from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Peter Cunningham told us that he had spoken with Conrad earlier that day. Conrad said he would set up a meeting with us and Rick Sullivan (DCR Commissioner) and Tom LaRosa (head of DCR legal team). The meeting would probably be in Boston. The overall tone of the call was positive, Peter noted.

The next agenda item was the upcoming tour of the Mass Central Rail Trail with Wachusett Greenways member Ed Yaglou. The tour was scheduled for April 28, 2010 at 5:30. We discussed questions to ask Ed, which included:

- Horse use on trail
- Insurance and liability issues
- Who is the rail trail owner
- Funding implications of non-ADA status
- Can stone dust be ADA compliant
- Maintenance
- Flooding issues
- Volunteer issues
- What is their relationship with DCR
- Funding sources
- Community outreach
- Close abutters
- Disposal of rails and ties

The next agenda item was Peter Cunningham's discussion with Ann Sullivan from MassHighway. Peter said Ann acknowledged receipt of the Project Need Form, but Peter got the impression that not much was going on with that form.

The Townsend minutes for Mar 4, 2010 were passed unanimously. The next meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2010 in Townsend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rideout  
Secretary, Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee