

Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee (Townsend)

Minutes of Public Meeting of Mar 4, 2010 (Approved April 22, 2010)

Location: Townsend Library, Townsend, MA

Time: 7:00 pm

Members Present: Steve Meehan (Chairman), Bill Rideout (Secretary), Hirk Fortin

Members Absent: Ken Gerken, Bill Martin

Attendees: Bruce Easom (Groton committee), Al Futterman, Mark Cram, and Joan Wotkowicz

The meeting was called to order at 7:16. The first agenda item was follow-up with Conrad Crawford from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Bill Rideout reported that Peter Cunningham had told him that Peter and Conrad had left messages with other, but had not yet spoken. The group suggested inviting Conrad to the next meeting.

Discussion of the Project Need Form was put on hold, since Peter Cunningham was not there, and he is following up with that issue.

Bruce Easom discussed his conversation with Sheri Bean of the Montachusets Regional Planning Commission. She told him that the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 100% design study was funded via an earmark. Bruce said he would follow-up to get more details.

It was decided to put conversations with B&M about releasing freight rights on hold. We noted that to get B&M to release freight rights, we needed two things 1) approximately \$5000 to cover B&M's costs, and 2) someone to sign the environmental waiver. Of these two, the second was more challenging. We decided that if DCR would sign the MBTA environmental waiver, they would probably also the B&M waiver. So the B&M issue is effectively coupled to our negotiations with DCR.

The Townsend minutes for Jan 28, 2010 were passed unanimously.

Finally, we discussed possible marketing steps we could consider if DCR were on the fence about our Wachusets Greenway approach in which they sign the

lease. We discussed getting our representatives to discuss it with DCR, or possibly using the advocates email list.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rideout
Secretary, Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee