

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Linda Mack, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Construction updates

The second section of rail trail was finished in early May and opened for use. Usage has been very high.

James resurfaced the parking lot at Harbor Church, installed a catch basin, built the stone dust path, and upgraded the canoe ramp.

Bill paid Gary the \$100K from ARPA and \$4K from Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council.

Townsend Earth Day and tree planting

Cheryl spoke with lots of people at the Earth Day event at the high school.

Volunteers planted 32 trees along the slope near the self-storage. Mark and Beryl have been watering from a tank in his truck. Trail users have also been watering according to the instructions on our sign.

Status of Townsend OOC extension

The Conservation Commission approved a three-year extension and John Barrett recorded it at the Registry of Deeds.

Status of grants and ARPA funding

We did not win the grant we applied for with Congresswoman Trahan's office. Peter is trying to get feedback. He also informed Senator Cronin's and Senator Kennedy's offices that we did not win the grant and are very much in need of ARPA funding.

MassTrails offered an extra round of grants, but

we would not have been able to spend the money within the short timeframe.

Opening celebration

Plans are still on hold pending a reply from Congresswoman Trahan's office. Joe Shank said we can set up a tent behind Harbor Auto. We will run a shuttle from the Cherry Hill parking lot.

Donation offer from Townsend Community Couples Club

The club would like to make a donation to the rail trail, such as a tool stand. Since we already have a bike repair stand, Bill suggested a kiosk instead. They plan to discuss and get back to us in June. Joan suggested we might ask them to buy one or more flowering trees, if the kiosk is not a good option for them.

Shared Streets

Joan reported that most of the Shared Streets signs and amenities have been installed. The next task is to paint bike lanes on Bow Street, Highland Street extension, and Depot Street.

Where streets are two-way, the bike lanes are narrow. On the one-way sections, lanes are "contra-flow" to allow bicyclists to ride in the opposite direction of motor vehicle traffic. These lanes are wider, leaving a narrower roadway for vehicles.

A crew measured and lined out the bike lanes on Tuesday night. Once the final striping is done, the highway department will begin installing bike lane signage.

Fence construction at 110 Main St.

Bill and Joan met with Joan Beaulieu and her daughter Karen Jarvis to discuss the type and

placement of a safety fence along their property. Bill marked out a proposed location for a ~130 foot pressure-treated wood fence with three rails, to be installed along the slope below their yard. He estimates \$1,700 in materials.

We planned to build the fence on Saturday, July 2. Peter will inform NHESP of the work. Bill will brush-cut the fence line. Mark and Bruce will place flags and call Dig Safe.

Fence construction at Harbor Church

Bill, Joan, and Pete Carson met at the Harbor Church with Tabor Morrell of the Townsend Historical Society. Bill had follow-up discussion with Ryan Hayward. The current thinking is to install a split rail fence ~89 feet along the edge of the parking lot near the property line.

Ryan wants to leave an opening to their adjacent property that they might want to use for additional parking. He is willing to make this an official rail trail parking lot if we help build it, partially on their property and partially on ours. This is an opportunity for us to have a second rail trail parking area. We would probably do the permitting and split the costs with the Historical Society.

Ryan wants a second fence or barrier between the rail trail path and the parking lot to prevent plows from damaging the trail and prevent cars from parking on it. We discussed several options such as guard rails, bollards, and curbing.

Fence lines are marked with spray paint and Bill sent a letter to the owner of the abutting property. He will contact the Townsend Historic District Commission to inquire about permitting requirements.

Joan mentioned that the Shared Streets project has an extra Squannacook River Rail Trail sign with a left arrow, which could be used to direct users to the path through the Harbor Church parking lot.

Other projects and maintenance

Paul Sebring refurbished our NO ATV signs at Old Meetinghouse Road and Depot St. We need one more STOP sign.

Mark found a design for a teardrop-shaped "split trail" method of alerting trail users of the roadway intersection at Old Meetinghouse Road and discouraging vehicles from entering the trail. Bill will ask Chris Overton about installing.

Upcoming events

In addition to an opening ceremony for the second section, Bill would like to have an official opening for canoe launch. We will schedule it for fall, after kids go back to school, and hopefully Nashoba Paddler can bring canoes.

Peter Cunningham will set up a table at Groton River Fest on June 12th from 11AM to 4PM.

Twin Cities Rail Trail is planning an opening celebration in mid to end of June. We should try to attend as representatives of a neighboring rail trail. Linda is a member of their board and said they may be interested in getting together to share ideas.

Financial report

Bill reported we have \$26,674.15 in the bank, now that construction is finished.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from April 21, 2022 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 P.M.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk, Squannacook Greenways, Inc.