

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Ray Jackson, Linda Mack, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Groton River Fest

Pete reported a good turnout with lots of young families in attendance. People showed interest in the rail trail and took handouts. Several signed up for our email list and a few asked about buying bricks.

Phase 3 construction plans

Bill will submit our signed grant documents for the next phase of construction. We will need three bids, which may include letters from contractors who decline to bid.

Joan will finish updating the Construction Spec and Invitation to Bid and send to Peter, Bill, and Mark. The Crosswinds section does not have OOC requirements or wattles and there are no eroded banks or culverts to be restored. Large rocks can be used to block vehicle access at the Bertozzi end.

Peter will post the ITB in the MA Central Registry. Bids will be due by August 31, 2022.

Fence construction at 110 Main

We will meet at Harbor Church on July 2 at 9:00 AM. Paul Sebring will transport Bruce's tractor. The fence will be 130 feet long, using around 21 posts.

Mark drew up a plan for a three-railing fence. He ordered screws and will order lumber, either for pickup or delivery.

Fence construction at Harbor Church

Bill and Ryan Hayward submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Townsend Historic District Commission for permission to build a fence in the Historic District. We received notice for a public meeting on July 6, 2022 at 4:00 PM at Townsend Town Hall.

Harbor Church parking

We discussed the idea for expanding parking at Harbor Church using both rail corridor property and Historical Society's L-shaped property. Bill suggested we approach the Townsend Conservation Agent to discuss an OOC amendment for the expanded parking and fixing the decking on the Cooperage bridge.

Trail route through Townsend Harbor

Some trail users have been following the path along Harbor Pond instead of staying on the rail trail through the church parking lot and along Route 119. Bill designed a map that points out the correct route of the rail trail as well as the public walking path to the Townsend Historical Society properties.

Bill and Tim met with the abutter who put "Stop" signs on the path, and he agreed to remove his unapproved signs in favor of Bill's map.

Kiosk donation from Townsend Community Couples Club

The Club voted to donate \$800 to purchase a prebuilt kiosk. They will hold a fundraiser for this project on July 17.

Plans for opening celebration

The event is postponed until legislators are available in July or August.

Other projects, events, and maintenance

Bill reopened the Buy-a-Brick fundraiser for Groton until end of September. We currently have 35–40 Groton bricks.

Bill is soliciting bids for engraved granite benches.

Animals have been digging holes in the stone dust. We will eventually need a stockpile of stone dust for spot treatment.

Ray weed-whacked around the Depot Street welcome area and someone mowed just after Memorial Day. Paul Sebring and Joan have been watering the trees we planted.

Status of grants and ARPA funding

Senator Cronin's office called Peter to say they secured \$50K in next year's state operating budget for the rail trail.

We are still waiting to hear about our Bruce J. Anderson Foundation grant application.

Joan submitted a final report for the Wild & Scenic Rivers grant. The Stewardship Council will vote this week on approving the second half of the funding.

Financial report

With the Groton CPA money and the upcoming grant award, we will have \$150K in our budget. The next section should cost \$120K. We will have \$30K left for benches and other expenses.

Meehan Bridge

No new activity unless the Town of Townsend decides to open Old Meetinghouse Road for emergency services. Bill requested letters of support from the Fire and Police Chiefs.

Review

The corrected minutes from our meeting on May 18, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.