

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham,
Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Fence at 110 Main

We worked on two Saturdays and finished the fence on July 9. It came out good, thanks to Mark for meticulous details. Mark and Beryl returned to cut off the tops of posts.

Granite benches

Bill got inscriptions from donors and ordered five granite benches from Dennis Malone at Townsend Memorial, the vendor who made the granite pillar for us. He estimated \$3,800 which includes installation.

Old Meetinghouse Road crossing

Chris Overton will give us a quote for building out Mark's idea for teardrop-shaped dividers at both sides of Old Meetinghouse Road. The project involves removing stone dust, installing granite curbstones, and filling with topsoil for low plantings.

The dividers will warn trail users of the road crossing instead of bollards. We could add a flexible bollard later on, if needed to deter ATVs.

We also need a crosswalk painted and signage on Old Meetinghouse Road. Joan will send a request to the Townsend Highway Department.

Townsend Harbor sidewalk

Townsend Select Board chair Veronica Kell got permission from MA DOT to use leftover money from the Shared Winter Streets grant toward building a sidewalk in Townsend Harbor. The plan is to use ARPA funding for the remainder of the cost.

Bill and Joan met with the project team on July 12. The first task will be to solicit bids for engineering and permitting, followed by bids for construction of the concrete sidewalk.

Peter asked if the highway department can do the construction.

The sidewalk will go over a small culvert that has to be evaluated for structural integrity. An alternative might be to use a small section of stone dust.

Tim pointed out that pedestrian and cyclist safety over the Harbor Bridge on South Street will need to be addressed, especially as the rail trail grows in popularity. There is a sidewalk on the bridge today, but it ends abruptly.

Projects with Townsend Historical Society

Townsend Historic District Commission gave their permission for the fence and parking lot extension at the Harbor Church.

Bill asked the Townsend Conservation Agent about another amendment to our Orders of Conditions for the parking lot extension at the Harbor Church and bridge repair near the Cooperage. We are tentatively on the agenda for the July 27 Conservation Commission meeting and they will contact us to schedule a site walk.

The parking lot extension will also need review by the planning board. Bill will ask Stan Dillis to prepare a plan. Gary estimated the cost at \$20K, which we will split 50/50 with the Historical Society.

We agreed to work on permitting for repairing the bridge near the Cooperage and then the Historical Society will be responsible for the work.

Harbor Auto Body fence

Bill spoke with Joe Shank about privacy fencing for the back lot at Harbor Auto. Joe agreed to pay for the slats through a donation and we will install on his chain link fence. Bill sent him an estimate for \$1,600.

Phase 3 construction

We sent the Invitation to Bid and Construction Specification to Shepco, Kevin Smith, and Max13. We need three bids for MassTrails, which can include no-bids.

Mark will reach out to Powell. Peter will put it on the MA Central Register.

Peter will inform Groton CPA of our schedule.

Pete pointed out that rail removal was very disruptive in the neighborhood around Crosswinds Drive, so we should do some outreach prior to construction. Pete and Peter will offer local residents a tour of the completed Phase 2 section, scheduled to coincide with the opening celebration.

Opening celebration

We are still waiting for a date from Trahan's office.

Other projects, events, and maintenance

Bill would like to have a stockpile of stone dust for filling chipmunk holes and other repairs.

Trash barrels have been emptied. Joan and Paul have been watering the trees. Joan reported that all look healthy, except one white pine that died. She cut the dead tree, leaving a second tree that was growing next to it.

Grants & ARPA funding

The Bruce J. Anderson Foundation notified Bill they have approved our grant. We are four for four in 2022!

Senator Cronin also has state money set aside for us.

Phase 4 will cost ~\$230K, so we will need all the funding we can find.

The MassTrails grant contract documents are nearly finalized. Once we get a Notice to Proceed, we can begin logging time spent on getting bids and other Phase 3 project tasks.

Financial report

We received one new granite bench donation and eleven brick purchases this month.

Mark only spent \$969 on fence materials.

Liability insurance, which is required by the MBTA, cost \$698.

Our balance is \$157K, not counting the Bruce J. Anderson grant.

Minutes Review

A motion to accept the minutes from June 15, 2022 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, August 17** at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.