

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham,
Dan Hager, Ray Jackson, Tim Palmer,
Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Kiosk

The pre-made kiosk donated by the Townsend Community Couples Club was delivered to Joan's house. Bill purchased a small plaque acknowledging their contribution.

Paul and Joan offered to dig a second post hole next week. Peter and Bill will help assemble and install the kiosk at Depot Street.

Granite benches

Bill worked with donors to finalize their engraved text and bench locations along the first section of rail trail. The five benches should be ready for installation this weekend. Cost is \$3,800 for benches and installation.

Townsend Harbor sidewalk and bike lanes

In addition to working on getting a sidewalk built, the Townsend Shared Streets & Spaces committee is trying to get engineering services on bike lanes to improve access to the rail trail from South Street and South Harbor Road.

Bill consulted with VHB, the consultants that did our preliminary engineering study. VHB thinks MA DOT should be able to fund the sidewalk through the infrastructure bill, but ADA and other non-compliance will need to be addressed.

The Shared Streets & Spaces committee's next Zoom meeting is on August 23 at 9:00 AM. Bill, Joan, and Tim will attend.

Harbor Church parking lot project

Joan met on site with the Townsend Conservation Commission and Townsend Historical Society to review the parking lot extension project. Jessica Consolvo requests additional information before considering our request for an amendment to our Orders of Conditions. She would like to see a plan showing 35' no disturb and 100' buffers, trench, lot setbacks, and more parking detail. She also wants details on vegetation removal and updated MESA information. Once she receives the information, she will put our request on a Conservation Commission agenda.

Bill asked Stan Dillis for a quote on the permitting. The Townsend Historic District Commission already approved the project.

Pete noted an electric fence on rail property near Townsend Harbor. Bill will investigate.

Railroad bridge repair projects

The Conservation Commission reviewed Townsend Historical Society's proposed plan for repairing the canal bridge nearest the Cooperage. Jessica requires a separate NOI for this work, to include a new wetland delineation, MESA filing with flow diversion permissions, plans, project narratives, etc. The Historical Society will be responsible for the application.

As a reminder, we do have the Conservation Commission's permission to repair the canal bridge nearest the Grist Mill. We will try to schedule a work day next year.

Opening celebration

Peter did not get a commitment from Lori Trahan's office, so we will go ahead and pick a date in September after Labor Day, preferably a

Saturday or Sunday at 1:00.

MassTrails conference

The conference is scheduled for November 12 at Great Wolf Lodge in Leominster. MassTrails sent out a call for presentations and field trips. We decided not to submit a proposal, since Bill gave a talk last year and we previously suggested a field trip on our rail trail that was not selected.

Other projects, events, and maintenance

During construction on the next section, we will set aside some stone dust for trail maintenance.

Candi Barry, Account Manager at Deluxe, contacted us to ask about a rail trail project for volunteers at Deluxe. Joan suggested planting perennials around the sign on Depot Street. Candi is trying to schedule Friday afternoon work days.

We will wait to install the split rail fence until we work on the parking lot extension.

Phase 3 & 4 construction

We have three bids for the phase three section. This is a requirement for the MassTrails grant, not for the Groton CPA. Bill worked out a payment schedule for phase three grant reimbursements.

Bill estimates phase four will cost \$210K. With our remaining balance and expenses for Harbor Church projects, he estimates we will need to raise \$140K to complete the rail trail. Even with another MassTrails grant, we will be \$40K short. We may be able to ask for another Groton CPA, but need to start the application soon.

Grants and other fundraising

Senator John Cronin's office sent us a letter stating that the rail trail was awarded a \$50,000 financial earmark from the 2023 state budget.

The Bruce J. Anderson Foundation awarded us \$5,000, not the full \$12,000 we requested.

Joan will look into what paperwork or reports we might have due.

We sold 12 bricks in the Groton Buy-a-Brick program and will close the sale at the end of September. Pete will send out a reminder to Groton residents.

Bill bought t-shirts for the contractors and state representatives who have supported us. Shirts are available for sale at the Custom Crew shop in Townsend.

Financial report

With grant and earmark money accounted for, we have \$212,652 before phase three construction.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of our July 13, 2022 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, September 14, 2022** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.