

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Attending:

Rick Bailey, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham,
Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Tim Palmer,
Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Board of Directors nomination

Bill nominated Tim Palmer, of Townsend, to the Board of Directors. A motion to elect Tim was seconded and passed unanimously.

Post and rail fence installation

A group of about ten people worked on April 24 digging holes and setting posts for a guard rail fence along the steep drop-off behind Sterilite. Big thanks to Mark for getting materials and Bruce for using his tractor and auger.

Work continued in smaller groups throughout the week to finish setting posts and installing rails. The remaining tasks are to cut the tops of posts and to grade and compact the soil. We will meet in the Sterilite lot on **Friday at 9:00 AM**.

Bill noted another steep area, at the first culvert near Old Meetinghouse Road, that may need a fence. We considered asking Max13 to build it.

Plan for soil stabilization

Gary Shepherd plans to hydro-seed along the edges of the trail, but has not yet been able to procure grass seed.

Trail work days

Trash pickup and trail repairs - We will host a volunteer work day on **June 5** to pick up trash along the trail. Also, in the trail sections that still have ties, we will restore the walking path by kicking woody debris off the trail and smoothing out ruts left behind by rail removal equipment.

Trash barrels - Gary Shepherd donated barrels

with the rail trail logo. Rick offered to keep an eye on them and empty if needed.

Wattle removal - Joan said the polyethylene netting is photodegradable, not biodegradable, and should be removed. Some of the wattles may be hard to dig out. Mark reminded us that we cannot remove any wattles until the soil is stabilized.

Japanese Knotweed - Bill and Joan worked for over an hour digging out invasive knotweed plants and hauling them away in trash bags, but there are still a lot of plants in the area west of Harbor Auto. Bruce will ask Olin Lathrop of the Groton Conservation Commission if he will work with us, as he is licensed to use herbicide.

Grist Mill bridge repair - Bill received our permission letter from the Townsend Conservation Commission. We will postpone this project until fall.

Extensions for Orders of Conditions

Our OOCs are approaching their expirations:

Groton - September 2021

Townsend - July 2022

Peter will ask Nik Gualco for guidance on requesting an extension from the Groton Conservation Commission.

ATV issues

We will continue discussion with Pete Carson at the next meeting.

Plans for welcome area near Depot Street parking lot

Joan showed a concept drawing a kiosk near the parking lot and a separate "welcome" area with the Townsend bricks, granite pillar, bench, bike rack, etc. near the railroad track display.

All are in agreement with the design, which will probably include blank pavers along with the engraved bricks. Bill will purchase the new bricks before contacting Chris Overton about installation.

Status of Meehan Bridge project

No new activity.

Financial report

Bill reported that Gary donated a total of \$31K worth of work.

We sold 40 more bricks, bringing in \$6,450. Bill will purchase an 8x8" brick thanking Chris Overton for donating the installation.

A motion to approve up to \$1,100 for buying the bricks was seconded and approved unanimously.

A motion to reimburse Mark for \$3,092.16 for fence materials was seconded and passed unanimously.

Our current equity is \$47,597.12.

Financial plan for entire trail

Bill presented a revised financial plan for the next three years of construction. We will need additional fundraising for the final year. Gary is interested in building all remaining sections.

Other events/publicity/fundraising

We currently have no signage at Depot Street, but Cheryl Rideout said that Mark's Squannacook River Rail Trail sign was helpful during the Earth Day event. Bill would like to install the sign so it can be seen from the road.

We will hold off on a ribbon cutting until after the bricks have been installed, the Sterilite fence is repaired, and the state has lifted the 150 person limit for outdoor gatherings.

MassTrails grant

All funding has been paid out and we owe a final report by June 30. We will continue to record volunteer hours as an "overmatch" for the

report. Please keep track of hours and send them to Bill.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on April 7, 2021 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **June 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.