

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dale Gates, Dan Hager, Linda Mack, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Phase 4 construction plan

Gary bid \$330K for construction, Powell gave us a No Bid, and we are waiting for a bid from Kevin Smith.

Financial report / grants & fundraising

Bill sent out a fundraising email and we received a few donations.

Representative Scarsdale got a \$25K earmark for the rail trail. Our present assets are \$350,574.97.

Bill submitted an amendment request to MassTrails asking for a \$16K increase to our grant.

Upcoming bills are \$330,000 for Phase 4 construction and \$6,000 for wattles. Turtle monitoring (worst case) could cost \$10,000.

An estimated \$4,000 for fencing materials could possibly be covered by a Wild & Scenic grant.

After construction we should have either \$30,000 left (best case) or \$0 (worst case).

158 Main Street wetland violation

The NOI was approved by the Townsend Conservation Commission and remediation work began. The berm was rebuilt in two places where channels had been cut, and stone dust was added where the trail surface washed away.

ATV issues

Pete Carson reported issues with dirt bike

activity on the Groton section. Peter Cunningham spoke with Police Chief Luth who agreed to keep an eye on the rail trail during their Crosswinds patrols. Pete will contact neighbors asking them to keep a watch and call the local police.

Road crossings and Groton bricks

On hold pending Chris Overton's availability. Bill will ask him for an update.

Other projects, events, and maintenance

Steve Meehan Bridge - Townsend approved a project to repair Old Meetinghouse Road from the bridge to Rt. 119, but it would require ~150–200' of platform above the flooded wetland area.

Townsend Harbor sidewalk - The Townsend Historical Society plans to repair and expand the Harbor Church into a function facility as part of the Historic Industrial Historic Village. The town plans to build the sidewalk along Rt. 119. Bill wants to post a sign instructing bicyclists to use the path along the roadway rather than ride behind the buildings.

Trash barrels - A trail user voiced concern about the overloaded barrel at Sterilite. Bill convinced Gary to remove the barrel. Tim would like to see them all removed (and we all agree), but we'll go one step at a time.

Invasive plants - Joan said the NRWA may consider the rail trail in Townsend as a site for an invasive plants removal project. All are supportive of the project.

Wattles - We had a work day on August 12 to clear brush and trees for wattles. Wattles installation will be on October 14. Bill will try to round up volunteers. Joan will place an order several weeks beforehand and have them delivered to Crosswinds, behind Hannaford's,

and fisherman's parking lot.

Stone dust repairs - We will schedule a work day for November. Mark said he can pick the materials up in his truck. For future maintenance, we will buy stone dust as we need it rather than stockpile.

Tree removal - A trail user reported a tree down between Sterilite and the rock cut. Peter will check on it and remove if possible.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of our June 21, 2023 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, **September 13, 2023** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.