

## Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Attending:

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

#### **Status of Phase 4 construction**

James is currently working on repairs to the culvert near the fisherman's parking lot. The trail surface looks ready for stone dust, so Bill paid the third payment to Shepherd's.

The area behind Harbor Village Mall is cleaner. Peter has spoken with the management and will continue to communicate with them.

Once construction is finished and soils stabilized, we will notify the Conservation Commissions so they can conduct site visits.

#### **Grand opening celebration**

The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 1 at 1:00 PM. Gary will let us use his lot for parking.

John Cronin and Margaret Scarsdale plan to attend. Peter will invite Lori Trahan.

We discussed ideas for a big celebration, such as food trucks and musicians, perhaps starting at noon.

#### **MassTrails grant application for west extension**

Bill prepared a grant application to fund engineering and permitting for a 0.4-mile westward extension to Worcester Road in Townsend. He obtained quotes from VHB and Stantec (formerly FST).

Both firms advised that the trestle and collapsed granite block abutments would need to be rebuilt. Estimates for just the engineering work ran close to \$350K, while the cost for a new

bridge would be around \$1.5M.

These costs are outside of our budget, so Bill did not submit the application. Mark suggested we find out who built bridges for Mass Central Rail Trail.

#### **CPA 2024 grant application for east extension**

Peter revised our application based on the Community Preservation Act committee's recommendations. Applications are coming up for a vote at the Groton Town Meeting.

He consulted with Greystone Realty and asked them to contact CSX about freight rights as far as H&V.

#### **BJA grant application**

Bill applied to the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation for funding to remove and dispose of the old ties, lay down stone, and install newer ties and rails for a historical railroad display at Depot Street. If feasible, we could bring in a caboose in the future.

#### **CFNCM grant application**

Bill applied to the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to build ditching where water is running down the trail in Townsend Harbor.

#### **W&S grant application**

Joan submitted a Community Grant application to the Nashua Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council requesting just under \$5K. This will be for materials to build ~600 feet of wooden fence near the fisherman's parking lot and materials for 10 "No Motor Vehicles" signs to be installed at road crossings.

Grant awards will be announced at the end of

March. We will need to call DigSafe before starting this project.

### **Financial report/other fundraising**

Bill paid Gary \$60K for the third of four payments and will submit a request for the remainder of our MassTrails grant.

Total assets are \$134K. We will have \$29K after the final payment to Gary.

DCR contacted Bill to start the FY24 earmark process.

Bill is working on getting signatures to put CPA on Townsend's ballot for November 5. If passed, it will be for FY2026 funding and may be helpful for rail trail projects.

### **Other maintenance/ projects/events**

Our stone dust repairs held up through the winter.

Joan bought two new "Keep off the Bridge" signs to be installed near the Grist Mill when the ground thaws.

### **Executive Session**

We entered executive session to discuss potential nomination of a new board member.

### **Review minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024 was seconded and approved unanimously with one abstention.

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### **Next meeting**

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024** at 7:00 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.