

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Attending:

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

Status of Phase 4 construction

All contract work has been completed and paid for. The work crew is still seeding grass near Shepherd's.

Close out Orders of Conditions

We will submit requests for Certificates of Compliance in both towns. The Commissions may do a site walk, including a check for stabilized soil. If they want the wattles removed, we can slice open the netting and leave the straw.

In Townsend, we will repair the Townsend Harbor railroad bridges before closing out the OOC.

Plans for opening celebration

Meet at Cherry Hill Too at 3:00 on Friday May 31 to set up. Bring pop-up canopies, folding tables and chairs, signs, etc.

The event will start at noon on Saturday. Bill plans to arrive around 10:00 to finish setting up.

Dan obtained a \$100 gift certificate from Tomten Biketown and Hope will make tickets for a free raffle. Dale and Hope will help run kids' activities from noon to 1:00. James will offer rides for anyone who wants to tour the trail from a trail vehicle.

Other events

Groton River Fest is Sunday June 9th starting at 10:00.

Permits for repairing railroad bridges

Gary has offered to repair both small railroad bridges in Townsend Harbor. The Townsend Conservation Commission approved a 2021 amendment to our Order of Conditions that allows us to fix the small bridge next to the Grist Mill. Bill asked the Townsend Conservation Agent about any additional permitting instructions.

Plans for fence installation

Mark will work on a layout once the hydroseeding grows in. He estimates 478 feet of fencing, to be installed in sections. We may need to hold off on some sections in case access is needed for heavy equipment to repair the culvert.

Bill will try to find out more about the MassDOT project to repair the culvert under Rt. 119. He will ask about their schedule and any requirements for our downstream culvert.

Other maintenance and projects

Bill wants to install catch basins along the trail near Harbor Auto, but finances are getting tight.

Dan will remove the dead tree trunk near the Depot Street parking lot this Saturday May 25 ~8:00 AM.

Mark and Peter took care of a leaning tree near Crosswinds. Peter also cleared pinecones off the trail with a leaf blower.

The town has asked Gary to bid on constructing a sidewalk through Townsend Harbor. Bids received to date all exceed the project budget.

Final report for MassTrails grant

Our report is due June 30. We will wait to include a copy of the last check from Groton and

photos of the opening celebration.

Groton CPA grant application

Our application for \$30K to study a Groton extension was approved at town meeting. Stan Dillis submitted a bid for the project; Bill will try to get two more bids if needed for the CPA grant.

Peter continues to investigate the easement for the rail line from Ayer.

Townsend CPA

We will have a table at the opening celebration to collect signatures supporting the Community Preservation Act in Townsend. 350 valid signatures are needed to get it on the ballot in November.

BJA grant application for historical railroad display

Bruce J. Anderson grant awards will be announced in July.

Meehan Bridge feasibility

The next step for the proposed pedestrian bridge will be a site walk with permitting organizations.

Financial report/other fundraising

At construction's end we have \$18,600, of which \$4,800 is earmarked for fencing.

Peter would like to compile a list of costs for ancillary trail projects and present it to Representative Trahan's office. The list can include rebuilding the Townsend trestle, extending the trail, etc.

Review April 17, 2024 minutes

A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

Schedule next meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 26** at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.