

## **Squannacook Greenways (pre-incorporation) meeting minutes**

Jan. 20, 2011

We had a Squannacook Greenways meeting after the town committee meetings were adjourned on Jan. 20, 2011 at Town Hall in Groton. In attendance were Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Russ Murray, Pete Carson, Al Futterman, Alfred Gadway, and Joan Wotkowicz.

The first topic of discussion was the upcoming meeting with DCR. Peter Cunningham noted that Conrad Crawford from DCR had not yet confirmed a date and time. The meeting will be held at DCR Headquarters, 251 Causeway Street in Boston. Joan Wotkowicz and Bill Rideout discussed a document they were working on to give to DCR at the meeting. The document was a brief history of the advocacy for the Squannacook River Rail Trail. That document makes reference to a large number of other documents, reports, handouts, etc., that our group has produced over the years. Joan printed all those documents and collected them in a rather hefty binder. The idea is to impress upon DCR the commitment of our group to this project. I've attached a pdf of the history - most of the other supporting documents are available as links. We discussed whether we should include the bios of the future Board of Directors in this document, but not everyone has yet sent me theirs.

We also discussed whether we should stick with the name Squannacook Greenways. The strength of the name is the strong association with Wachusett Greenways, who are our models and whom are highly regarded by DCR. It was noted that Greenways can have other connotations, but it was generally felt we should stick with that name.

We next discussed our mission statement. The text I sent out earlier was:

The mission of Squannacook Greenways is to build, maintain, and promote the Squannacook River Rail Trail as a source of recreation, safe non-motorized transportation, and community spirit in our towns. Squannacook Greenways will work to integrate the Squannacook River Rail Trail with other facilities, such as trails and sidewalks, to encourage human-powered transportation throughout the area.

There was a general discussion of whether the focus solely on the rail trail was too restrictive, and whether we should be a group that builds trail in general. A concern was raised that we would then overlap with Friends of Willard Brook. The consensus was that a sharp focus on the rail trail and axillary facilities such as a connection to the Nashua River Rail Trail was best. It was also agreed that the present mission statement could use some word smithing.

Bill Rideout