

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2020

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Dan Hager, Ray Jackson, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

This meeting was held online via Zoom, in keeping with the Massachusetts stay-at-home advisory.

"No ATV" signs

Pete Carson reported that one of our warning signs is missing from the Crosswinds Drive area. The others are still in place. He will alert the Groton police to get it on record.

New fence inquiry

Pete Carson received an inquiry from a Crosswinds resident about building a privacy fence within the MBTA sightline easement. We can't legally give them a go-ahead to build the fence, but we gave them a contact for the MBTA. As long as it's on their property, it will not affect the rail trail.

MassTrails grants

Bill filled out a reimbursement request form for our 2019 grant award and included receipts for the tree removal and Sterilite fence. Joan filled out a final report form, wrote a narrative, and submitted a PDF to Amanda Lewis on April 15. Amanda acknowledged receipt of the email and forwarded it to Libby Knott for payment processing. We should receive the entire grant amount of ~\$27.8K soon.

If we win a 2020 grant award, we will get new quotes for building the first one-third of trail. We expect bids from Max13 and Gary Shepherd.

Rail removal project and wattle status

Joan contacted Jeff Greene to ask about rail removal in March. Jeff reported that Keystone Rail Recovery could not do the work during the pandemic, but they are committed to starting in November.

Pete Cunningham contacted NHESP to clarify if we must remove the wattles now. Dave Paulson said we can leave them in place for use during construction starting in November.

Pete Carson removed some of the wattles in Groton before learning about the NHESP permission to leave them. We have replacement wattles stored at Joan's house.

Once we get our grant, we'll contact Keystone again and also ask Dave Sears for a quote on tie removal.

Depot Street parking permit

No activity. Stan Dillis said on March 17 that he will get to it as soon as he can. Bill will follow up with him before our next meeting. We also need Stan to do the stormwater permitting.

Upcoming events and cancellations

Townsend Earth Day - cancelled.

May 2 trail clean-up - cancelled. Bill asked if we should provide instructions for people to go out on their own to do clean-ups. Ray cautioned against allowing people to use chain saws, especially alone. Furthermore, we would need them to sign a waiver.

Bill will post a message on our web site that the clean-up is delayed until we can reschedule. We'll encourage people to clear by hand, without using power tools.

Trail walk with Townsend Historical Society -

Still on the calendar for Saturday, July 11.

Groton River Fest - Pete Carson thinks this is unlikely to happen on June 7.

Fundraising and financial report

Bill distributed the financial report via email. We have \$103K. Our yearly insurance of \$1,500 is coming up. Our balance at Community Foundation is down even though it's in a conservative fund.

A motion to pay Pete Carson \$78.48 for sign materials was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition

Ray has been trying to contact the NH Rail Trail Coalition to explore a possible collaboration with the Friends of the Nashua River Rail Trail to extend the NRRT into New Hampshire. Bill said we had previous communication with Charles Martin, who was president of the NH Rail Trail Coalition in 2011.

Review meeting minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on March 11, 2020 was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **May 13 at 7:00 PM.** which will likely be an online meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.