

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Attending:

Rick Bailey, Peter Carson, Mark Cram,
Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Tim Palmer,
Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Volunteer work day June 5

We had a good turnout and volunteers worked on trail sections in three groups. The team working on the section from Old Meetinghouse Road to Harbor Church collected ~500 lbs of "other track material," which Joan loaded onto her truck and Paul Sebring brought to MJS metals for credit.

MassTrails site visit June 11

Amanda Lewis seemed impressed and noted that we are timely with our paperwork. She suggested inviting DCR officials to our opening ceremony.

Plan for engraved bricks/granite benches/Depot St. improvements

Engraved bricks have all been delivered and are stored at Joan and Paul's.

Bill and Joan met with Chris Overton to discuss the brick installation. Chris is waiting for a break in his work and the weather to do the installation. He priced out \$472.82 of blank pavers, contrasting edge pavers, sand, and other materials. Powell Stone and Gravel of Brookline agreed to donate the materials. Joan visited their showroom to look at the pavers and was impressed.

Joan prefers to leave the engraved bricks in their secure packing until we bring them to Depot Street. When we are ready to install, Paul will load them onto his trailer for delivery.

Chris will let us know a few days beforehand

and Joan and Bill will alert the group. We can unpack the bricks and separate out the Groton bricks while Chris prepares the site.

Chris offered to install the granite benches and road crossings as well. He suggested waiting until the next phase of construction to build crossings on both sides of Old Meetinghouse Road.

Bill noted that we need a "No Left Turn" sign on Depot Street. He will ask the highway department if they will provide one.

Plan for invasive Japanese Knotweed

Bill sent Groton's insurance information to the Townsend Select Board but has not received a response. Olin cannot proceed until we hear from them. The Select Board has their hands full, so Bill will ask Emy Hoff of the Recreation Department if she can contact the insurance company.

Construction guidelines and ITB documents for next rail trail section

Assuming we win the next MassTrails grant, we should release the ITB as soon as possible. Last year we issued the ITB by September 1. Joan will start a draft and send it around for review.

Gary said he had to remove 12 inches of organic debris, which should be included in the ITB. Also, the culvert at his field will need replacing. Bill said a sinkhole is forming.

The new ITB will address Old Meetinghouse Road to Harbor Church, plus the path along the church parking lot. The Historical Society still owns the church.

Plan for opening ceremony

We scheduled the ceremony tentatively for the

afternoon of **Saturday, September 25**. Bill will circulate a preliminary list of invitees. We will include a walking tour of the trail and provide an opportunity for attendees to contribute, which will hopefully help with fundraising for year four.

Plan for future trail extension

We agreed to keep thinking about both directions for a trail extension.

Groton - Pete Carson said Cutler Field would be a good addition, but we would need engineering studies. Bill suggested we wait until the trail is complete before asking MassTrails to fund an engineering study. Peter and Bruce suggested we might look at Groton CPA money. Bruce also suggested we discuss the environmental challenges with Dave Paulson. Peter will contact Dave.

Townsend - Amanda Lewis said MassTrails grants could fund trestle repair. Bill will ask Stan Dillis and Gary what would be involved in replacing the deck on the railroad bridge near Jefts St.

Financial report

We paid \$460 for materials for the fence near Old Meetinghouse Road and paid annual insurance. We received \$7K from the current MassTrails grant, which is the last payment. Bill said we are still on budget.

Other events/publicity/fundraising

We will look for support from ownership and retailers at the Harbor Village Shopping Center. The property manager has been supportive.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on June 2, 2021 was seconded and passed unanimously with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, July 28 at 7:00 P.M.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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