

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Attending:

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

Check presentation event

We will hold an ARPA check presentation on **Saturday, February 5 at 1:00** along the rail trail behind Harbor Auto. This will be a press event with our Senators and Representative. We will need a podium.

Bill will contact Dave Funaiole to ask if Townsend Cable Access will record. He will ask James to plow the area again if we get more snow on Friday.

Peter notified local media publications and will inform Senator Cronin's office we are not planning a large public event.

Status of ARPA funding

Peter contacted the DCR Ombudsman office to ask for status of the funding, but has not heard back. Bill sent DCR our request form twice and left a voice mail. He has been keeping Senator Cronin's office up to date.

Status of grant applications

MassTrails was submitted. We requested \$96,000 for phase 3. Awards are expected in early July and funds in September.

Bruce J. Anderson is ready to submit next week. We asked for \$12,000 for phase 4 and funds are expected in July.

CFNCM is due at the end of February. We will ask for \$20,000 for phase 4 and hope to receive the money in April.

Pete Carson offered to help Joan with the

remaining applications.

Materials for Harbor Church parking lot

Squannacook Greenways is considering patching the large depression in the Harbor Church parking lot as part of this year's construction. Officially the lot is not for our use, but people will park there, so it will benefit us to have good relations with the Townsend Historical Society.

Bill, Mark, James Gates, Gary Shepherd, and Dan discussed the pros and cons of using recycled asphalt pavement (RAP). Mark pointed out that RAP should not be used near water, but James and Dan believe that it is safe to use because not much oil or leachable material is left.

Bruce does not know of any projects in Groton that used RAP near the wetland buffer. Joan will ask Townsend Conservation Agent Jessica Consolvo.

Idea for Harbor Pond canoe launch

The Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council offers grants of up to \$5,000 for river-related project. Joan submitted an application to improve the canoe launch at Harbor Church. We will check with Dave Paulson and the Townsend Conservation Commission to ask about permitting requirements.

Repairs to railroad bridges in Townsend Harbor

Ryan Hayward, president of the Townsend Historical Society, asked for permission to fix the railroad bridge nearest the Cooperage. In addition to decking repairs, they would like side railings to make the bridge pedestrian friendly.

Bill told Ryan about the Conservation Commission permitting requirements and said we are willing to be co-applicants and loan them our

tarp and boom.

Ryan also wants to talk about Harbor Church parking lot. He would like to install a wood fence like we did on the trail. Bill will set up a meeting.

Status of Old Meetinghouse Road / Meehan bridge project

Stan Dillis is still working on a way to make a route through the flooded section of Old Meetinghouse Road.

James reported that a car got stuck trying to drive through the water. The driver asked James to get him out and James declined. Bill and Joan walked the road and saw tire tracks and churned-up ice and snow from multiple vehicles, which demonstrates that a gate and a narrow bicycle path would improve the situation.

Joan said she walked to the river with Jen Eaton, Chair of the Townsend Conservation Commission, and showed her the proposed bridge site. Jen is a rail trail supporter and advocate for a safe route from Timberlee Park to the rail trail.

Construction update

James is starting this week to load ties into a truck for hauling to the disposal facility. Instead of moving ties to a landing area, he is driving the truck along the corridor and picking up individual piles.

The finished section of rail trail was snow plowed. This was not our intent, but the ground is frozen so plowing is unlikely to damage the surface. Also, comments on Facebook are very positive.

Once the ties are gone, James plans to stop work until spring weather, when he will replace a culvert and install stone dust.

Abutter consultations

Bill and Joan tried to visit the last abutter but did not make contact or get a return phone call. We will leave the brush intact along their property and around the truck that's parked on rail

property.

Townsend Earth Day

Mark signed us up for Earth Day, which will be on Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the North Middlesex Regional High School parking lot. Rain date is the following day.

Other events/publicity/outreach

We will plan a ribbon-cutting for the second section and a cookout with abutters in spring.

Financial report

Bill reported \$23K in the bank after we build this section. Hopefully we will win some grants!

Review minutes

A motion to accept the amended minutes of our January 12, 2021 meeting was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, March 2 at 7 P.M.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.