

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 28, 2023

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Dan Hager,
Linda Mack, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout,
Joan Wotkowicz

Phase 3 construction status

James has paused construction because of a family matter. As we are now past the NHESP March 15 deadline, Peter asked for an exception. Tim McGuire, Endangered Species Review Biologist from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife wants us to submit a Blanding's Turtle Protection Plan to continue construction. Joan drafted a plan that Bill will edit.

Bill made our first three payments to Gary and submitted a request to MassTrails for \$54K reimbursement. We need to spend the final \$64K before the end date of June 30 for this grant cycle. We could continue construction by hiring a biologist if necessary.

Phase 4 and long-term plans

Peter said that Groton's Community Preservation Committee will recommend our \$90K funding request to Town Meeting. The Groton Select Board also voted to recommend.

No word yet on our MassTrails \$150K grant application for phase 4.

We discussed ways to begin moving forward toward future phases. We will plan a Board of Directors walk along the sections extending north and south to start developing plans for leasing, engineering, and funding.

Townsend Historical Society plans

Bill is involved with the group working to convert the Historical Society properties and rail trail land into Old Harbor Village, with increased parking and the rail bed as a walking path.

In a separate effort, the Town of Townsend submitted a MassTrails grant application to build a shared use path in place of a Townsend Harbor sidewalk.

158 Main Street wetland violation

Joan checked the culvert this week and noted it has only a few inches of clearance left.

Contractors built the first of two check dams on the property to hold back water and silt. A measuring stick was installed in the silt deposits near the trail to check the level.

Once the temporary remediation is completed, the property owner is required to propose a plan for reclamation and restoration along the rail trail.

Other projects, events, and maintenance

Mark signed us up for Townsend Earth Day. Cheryl will help. Joan will make flyers.

Paul Sebring cleared a fallen pine tree just past the fisherman's parking lot.

The No Motorized Vehicles sign at Harbor Pond fell off its post and needs to be remounted.

Review February 22 minutes

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

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, **April 26, 2023** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.