

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Bruce Easom, Dale Gates, Dan Hager, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Status of Phase 4 construction

Work has discontinued now that we are snowed in. The ties are gone, organic soil removed, and the crew was spreading soil along the edges. They have never been this far along in January!

James and Gary will decide how to repair the culvert and banks near the fisherman's parking lot. Wattles have already been placed along the work area for reinforcing the intake side of the culvert.

Bill made two of four payments to Gary and is waiting for the next MassTrails reimbursement before making a third.

We still would like Peter to confer with the Harbor Village shopping center management on issues like trash and trail access from their lot.

MassTrails grant application

Bill is working on our grant application to fund engineering and permitting for a 0.4 mile extension in Townsend. He received cost estimates from several engineering firms for permitting and is waiting on estimates for trestle repair or replacement. He has three letters of support and is waiting on six more. The application is due February 1.

CPA 2024 grant application

Peter submitted our application to fund an engineering project for the Groton extension. The CPA committee will review it at their meeting on Monday, January 29 at 7:00 in Groton Town Hall. It will need approval at town meeting in April for FY2025 funding.

In the meantime, we will start working with the MBTA to obtain the lease to Groton-Shirley Road in Ayer. Pete recommends we confer with Hollingsworth and Vose.

Townsend CPA

Bill and Kym Craven are working with Bruce's help to get on the ballot for the 2024 presidential election. They will need a petition signed by 5% of registered voters.

Financial report/other fundraising

Bill expects a balance of \$28.8K after paying Gary. He is concerned that we may not receive \$25K from the state if earmarks are cut back.

Maintenance and projects

Several of our large No ATV signs have reached the end of their useful life. Joan asked if we should replace them with the same lightweight signs to last another 3-4 years or invest in more durable ones.

Pete would like to have standard-size metal signs on pressure-treated posts installed in the ground. They would have No ATV and our logo facing the road and Stop signs on the back, as specified in Mark's "teardrop" design. We will address these in the spring.

The Groton trailhead is currently very sparse and needs a kiosk.

Cheryl planted flowers in the teardrops at Old Meetinghouse Road.

Bill said our repairs near 158 Main Street are holding up well, although the ditch continues to build up silt.

Plowing at the self-storage knocked over a few of our trees. Bill sent an email asking for more caution.

Events

Grand opening - We hope to have a finished trail and sidewalk for the event in early summer.

Townsend Earth Day - April 20, Mark reserved a table.

Groton River Fest - Scheduled for June 9.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on November 8, 2023 was seconded and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024** at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.