

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2019

Attending: Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dan Hagan, Ray Jackson, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guests: Bill and Charley King of King Tree Service, Paul Sebring

### King Tree Service

Bill Rideout discussed our project with George King of King Tree Service and invited him to our meeting. George could not attend, but Bill and Charley King came. We began the meeting by discussing the tree removal contract with them.

The Kings have walked the entire length of the trail. Before putting together a proposal, they want to clarify expectations. Their machine would leave stumps about one foot high. Would they need to cut them with a chain saw?

Mark said we need stumps removed from the 10-foot trail bed. Pete Cunningham suggested the construction contractor remove them. We could use volunteer labor to level the stumps along the sides of the trail.

As far as the scope of the project, the Kings can do it. They will blow chips into a tractor-trailer and remove them. Some branches will be left in the trail that would have to be pitched off by volunteers.

The Kings asked about trees outside the corridor where branches encroach. Bill answered that we need 11 feet high clearance per instructions from the police and fire chief. They asked where they should cut along the branches. Bill said they can use their judgment, as long as the 20-foot wide by 11-foot high area is cleared. They will use a gas-powered pole saw for limbing.

Along the tracks, they will use a feller-buncher

to cut and a skidder to move the wood to a landing site for chipping. They need 12-foot width for their equipment, which will straddle the tracks.

Bill pointed out that the wattles must be in place before they cut, which will be done on November 2-3. The Kings pointed out that 24 feet between wattles is a little narrow for their equipment and they may snag some, but they have replacements.

The Kings said the timeframe is doable, although the hand work on overhanging branches and the distance needed to skid will slow them down.

In the four staging areas, they will need to clear enough area to get equipment off the road. Mark said the staging areas can be 50 feet wide by 100 feet long.

We agreed that the size of the job is approximately nine acres over 3.5 miles. With their questions answered, the Kings will prepare a quote in about a week.

### ANNUAL MEETING

A motion to re-elect Bill to another three-year director term was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to elect Dan Hager as a new director was seconded and passed unanimously

The new director terms are:

Director	Term Expires
Pete Carson	September 2020
Bruce Easom	September 2020
Ray Jackson	September 2020
Mark Cram	September 2021
Peter Cunningham	September 2021
Cedwyn Morgan	September 2021
Joan Wotkowicz	September 2021

Dan Hager	September 2022
Bill Rideout	September 2022

Joan nominated Peter Cunningham as president to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Steve Meehan. A motion to elect Pete as president was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to elect Peter Carson as vice president was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to re-elect Bill Rideout as Treasurer was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to re-elect Joan Wotkowicz as Clerk was seconded and passed unanimously.

The new officers are:

Officers	
President	Peter Cunningham
Vice President	Pete Carson
Treasurer	Bill Rideout
Clerk	Joan Wotkowicz

## MONTHLY MEETING

### MassTrails grant award

Bill received our grant contract paperwork from DCR. We have six forms to sign and send in to DCR and separate forms for Amanda.

Amanda requested a phone conversation with Bill, during which she inquired about additional budget items we might need. We discussed unexpected expenses we might propose, including the Sterilite fence, land clearing, and wetland replication. We agreed to request additional funding for land clearing.

Bill and Peter Cunningham will work on signatures and notarization.

### Recap of work days to mark wattle zones

Pete and Joan will try to flag the wattle zone in Groton tomorrow. Bill will drop off white flags. Pete will tour the flagging with Nick Gualco from the Conservation Commission.

We worked on the flagging in Townsend, but

did not finish. Bill will go out over the Columbus Day holiday (Sunday and Monday, October 13-14) with Pete Cunningham and Paul Sebring. Joan suggested painting the rail to indicate the start and end of wattle zones.

### Contractor bids for tree removal and/or construction

Mark got a quote from Flagg in Ayer for \$87K to remove trees. He also got a No Quote from Hayes in Pepperell and has asked for a quote from John Brown in NH, who has large specialized tree clearing machinery.

Dan suggested we ask Favreau Forestry in Sterling, MA.

Cedwyn asked about prices for steel rail, which would help him as he tries to get quotes. Mark will get an updated estimate.

### Plans for volunteer work days

Bill sent out a newsletter and updated the web site to announce work days. We will use email to continue planning among ourselves.

Saturday, October 19th 9:00–noon to clear brush to make a path for wattles. Dan said we will need a two foot wide cleared path. We will divide into teams with each team responsible for a section, led by someone from our Board. Chainsaw operators will need to show proof of training and wear protective gear.

Saturday, November 2nd 9:30 to noon to install wattles.

### Project reviews by Townsend and Groton Conservation Commissions

Peter and Joan are trying to arrange site visits Groton and Townsend.

### Townsend approval / Mass Highway access permit for parking lot

Pete said this will be more complicated than originally thought, including a utility pole that creates a problem. We agreed to postpone work

on the fisherman's parking lot.

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### **Townsend Stormwater Plan**

On hold until we get the grant contract.

### **Plans for Sterilite fence**

Bill got quotes for \$28K and \$40K to install chain link fencing.

### **Project timeline**

Pete Carson will send an update.

### **Recap of NRWA 50th anniversary rail trail walk**

Joan reported a successful walk on September 28, from Depot Road to the Harbor Church and back. About 25 people attended, including people from Mason Rail Trail, Central Mass Rail Trail, and Concord-Assabet-Sudbury Watershed. Also Steve Legg and Ken Gerkin, who were previously on our committee. People were very interested in our project and asked lots of questions.

### **Fundraising and financial report**

Bill reported \$2,400 of donations in memory of Steve, as well as a donation from Steve. Bill will ask the family what they would like as an inscription on a commemorative granite bench.

### **Meeting minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on September 4, 2019 was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

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Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday **October 30** at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Legion.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk