

## Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Attending:

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

#### Opening celebration for phase 2

The event on Sept 24 went well. Senator Cronin seemed pleased and gave a very supportive talk.

#### Remembering Ray

We shared stories about Ray Jackson, who passed away this week. Calling hours are 2:00–5:00 on Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home in Townsend.

#### MassTrails Conference

The conference will be on Nov 5–12. A chain saw workshop is on Saturday and Sunday, followed by field trips and workshops on Wed–Friday, and concurrent sessions on Saturday at Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg.

Bill hopes to attend the Saturday sessions and Joan registered for the chain saw class.

Schedule:

<https://www.masstrailsconference.com/schedule-at-a-glance.html>

#### Shared Streets bike lanes and sidewalk project

Bill showed his slides from the Townsend Shared Streets and Spaces team's Community Forum on October 5.

Bill's presentation slides:

<https://www.townsendma.gov/home/news/community-meeting-presentation-bike-lanes-south-harbor-rd-south-st>

Meeting recording on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byhbNWD2>

#### A7I

Sidewalk construction would exceed the available funding, so is being left for another project, hopefully completed by MassDOT.

The proposed Meehan bridge is still the safest route to the rail trail from Timberlee Park. Bill spoke with Townsend's Police Chief, who is enthusiastic about the idea and plans to discuss with the Fire Chief.

Bill voiced a concern that repairing the east trestle bridge will attract bicyclists to use it, leading them away from the South Street crosswalk. An additional crosswalk with rapid flashing beacon might be needed on South Street, further back from the 119 intersection. Bill sent his idea to the Kittleson engineer for feedback.

The ultimate long-term solution is to widen the road to make room for bike lanes on both sides.

#### Trail user count

We counted a few years ago, but more recent data will help with upcoming grant applications.

We set up a schedule for Sunday, October 16:

Bruce 8:00–12:00

Bill 12:00–2:30

Joan 2:30–end

Joan will distribute tally sheets for use by counters.

#### Phase 3 construction

Phase 3 construction should start in a month. Staging points will be the interior of the Crosswinds Drive crossings.

Some rails and ties are piled at Crosswinds. The rails might be useful for bank stabilization in

phase 4. Some of the ties should be moved to Depot Street for the historical display. We will find out how many ties are needed and mark the ones we want to keep.

Pete will inform the Crosswinds email group of the upcoming construction and trail closure.

Peter will alert MassWildlife and remind them that we are not using Bertozzi WMA for construction access.

### **Status of Harbor Church projects**

Bill showed the preliminary plan developed by Stan Dillis for extending the parking lot. The plan looks good with a few minor modifications, but phase 4 construction will remain a higher priority than the parking area.

### **Other projects, events, and maintenance**

The trail still looks in good shape, but leaves, pine needles, acorns, etc. will need to be leaf blown soon.

Joan contacted tech support for Apple Maps, who will add "Squannacook River Rail Trail" at the parking lot on Depot Street.

### **Financial report**

We sold a few more bricks and Bill paid Stan Dillis for the Harbor Church plan. We still need to raise about \$40,000 for phase 4, assuming another \$100K from MassTrails.

Bill hopes we can win another CPA award for the 0.3 miles of phase 4 in Groton. Bruce said now is the time to submit a two-page preliminary application for FY24 funding. Peter will work on the two pager. Bill will get a quote from Gary to submit with our final application, which will be due in late January.

Peter will continue to connect with Senator Cronin about funding.

### **Review minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from our meeting on September 14, 2022 was seconded

and passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, November 16** at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.