

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Dale Gates, Linda Mack, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

### Phase 3 construction status

Peter asked Tim McGuire of NHESP about extending construction past March 15. NHESP required us to submit a turtle protection plan and hire a wildlife biologist certified in turtle monitoring. Consulting firms estimated up to \$5K for turtle monitoring.

After discussion, NHESP accepted our turtle protection plan and agreed to let us hire an intern to monitor. Peter and his daughter Jenny, who has experience in turtle monitoring, have been sweeping the trail each morning.

Shepco put down stone dust this week. Some soft sections needed reinforcement with coarser gravel. They expect to finish in a few days.

### Phase 4 and long-term plans

We planned a walk from Bertozzi to West Groton center to evaluate the potential for an extension. Meet at Bertozzi on Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 AM.

Groton town meeting will vote on CPA funding for phase 4. We have an earmark from Senator Cronin and hope to win the MassTrails grant.

### Townsend Historical Society plans

Architectural plans have been drawn up and Gary will present to the Historical Society on May 17.

### Financial report

No changes. Bill will work on our IRS form 990.

### MassTrails grants

Amanda asked for a status update, which Bill provided. Once construction is finished, we will need everyone's phase 3 volunteer hours.

### Other grants & fundraising

Community Foundation sent a reminder that we owe a final report.

### 158 Main Street wetland violation

The property owner is working on the interim plan developed by Stan Dillis. He installed two check dams in the swale and has been removing silt. The culvert is flowing more freely now, with only a few inches of silt in the bottom.

The Conservation Commission continues to push for full compliance with the enforcement order, which requires a final plan for restoring the site to the original condition.

### Other projects, events, and maintenance

Mark and Cheryl hosted a table at Townsend Earth Day. Mark reported that all visitors were very positive.

Groton River Fest will be Sunday, June 11.

We will schedule a volunteer day to install new wattles for phase 4.

We decided not to hold an opening ceremony for phase 3, but to wait until we can celebrate phases 3 and 4 together.

Joan grass-whipped Japanese Knotweed sprouts that are coming up along the side fence at Harbor Auto and below the fence we built at 110 Main. Anyone going through this area should cut or pull up plants. Linda would like them for her goats.

Daffodils are in bloom!!!

Joan picked up trash from Harbor Church to

Depot Street and collected about half a trash bag. The trash cans are nearly full at Depot St. and Sterilite gate.

The NO ATV sign at the Harbor tends to fall over. Pete suggests that we install it on a permanent post.

### **Review minutes**

A motion to accept the corrected minutes from our March 28 meeting was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.