

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Attending:

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

MassTrails awards ceremony

Bruce, Peter, and Joan attended the June 14 event in Billerica. They received our certificate and took photos with Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and Amanda Lewis.

DCR's press release announced over \$11M in grant funding for 68 projects.

Grants & fundraising

Our MassTrails final report for phase 3 is due. Pete and Peter will send their volunteer hours to Bill and he will work on the budget; Joan will work on the project summary.

Financial report

Bill's estimated budget to complete phase 4:

Balance after phase 3: ~\$85,000
2023 MassTrails - \$150,000
Groton CPA 2023 - \$90,000
Total: \$325,000

Estimated phase 4 cost: \$320,000

Estimated assets when trail complete: \$5,000

This doesn't give us a lot of wiggle room. At a minimum, we will need to raise money for wattles. We decided to send out an email seeking donations. We may also sell t-shirts during a work day.

Phase 4 construction plan

Bill did a site walk with Gary to review the bank reinforcement projects. The culvert nearest the fisherman's parking lot needs to be reset or possibly replaced.

We will need three bids. Joan will revise the construction specs to specify two options for bank stabilization, steel rails or rocks. She will also revise the RFQ to require separate pricing for Groton and Townsend sections.

Joan, Mark, and Beryl re-measured wattle distances using Stan's wetland delineation maps and Mark's measuring wheel. The new estimate is 4,000 linear feet (160 wattles) and 1,000 stakes (40 bundles), which includes the grassy area near Gary's barn. The shipment will be 14 pallets delivered to three locations: Crosswinds, fisherman parking lot, and Harbor Village shopping center.

Price estimates from two vendors are \$7,923 from S&M Farms in Fitchburg (who we used in 2019) and \$7,591 from US Construction Fabrics LLC in Windham NH. Prices include delivery.

Joan noted that US Construction Fabrics claims to have truly biodegradable netting. They also offer wattles with plastic netting for a lower price. We will look into using the plastic netting and removing the netting after construction.

Townsend Historical Society projects

Townsend won a MassTrails grant to construct the connecting path along Rt. 119 in Townsend Harbor. Bill is still working on the historical village project.

Road crossings and Groton bricks

Bill will ask Chris Overton about his schedule for building out the road approaches. The Groton road department ordered signs for the crossings at Crosswinds. Joan bought metal STOP signs, which Pete will install on the back of the No ATV signs.

158 Main Street wetland violation

An NOI was filed on June 8. Joan asked the Conservation Agent for a copy but it's not ready yet for sharing. There were several people on site today including the Conservation Commission. Bill gave Stan Dillis permission to represent us.

The Conservation Commission hearing on the NOI is next Wednesday, June 28 at 7:15.

Maintenance

We scheduled the following phase 4 work days:

- Brush clearing by the Board of Directors Saturday, August 12. Linda will ask the Matthew Matos about using a brush hog.
- Wattles installation by volunteers Saturday, October 14.

The wooden "Squannacook River Rail Trail" sign that Mark carved got knocked over. Mark took it home for repairs.

Joan noted runoff beginning to form a channel from the infiltration ditch near the Harbor Pond canoe launch. James said an easy fix is for the Highway Department to drop off some asphalt regrind. Yesterday, a water main break occurred at the top of the parking lot, causing additional water issues.

Dale asked about the trash cans, as the middle barrel is overfull.

Peter will inform Kim Perry, manager of Harbor Village mall, about upcoming construction. He will also talk to her about trash around the dumpsters and the possibility of fencing.

Other future projects:

- Kiosk at the Groton terminus. We will look for an Eagle scout who needs a project.
- Historic rail display at Depot Street.
- Fences along the drop-offs on phase 4.

We may apply for another CFNCM or Bruce Anderson grant for some of these projects.

Other projects and events

The Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council invited us to a half-day Squannacook River Regional Stewardship Charrette on Friday, July 14, 2023, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the NRWA. This a new program to bring together groups who are stewards of conserved lands to identify shared needs and ways to collaborate.

Joan, Bill, and Linda will attend.

Review minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from May 24, 2023 was seconded and approved unanimously

Next meeting

On next meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 26 at 6:00 at Bailey's with dinner.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.