

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 20 7:00 pm

Nashua River Watershed Association

Attending:

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Hirk Fortin, Al Futterman, Alfred Gadway, Christopher Leitao, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Rollin Willis, Joan Wotkowicz

Environmental Insurance

Peter Cunningham is exploring costs through Groton's insurer. Bill Rideout requested a quote from Charter Insurance Group, an agent who has insured most of Massachusetts' rail trails. Mark Cram asked Acton and other towns who built rail trails and learned that they were quoted \$50-60K but elected not to purchase.

Town Letters of Support

Bill Rideout and Steve Meehan spoke with Townsend Town Administrator Andy Sheehan about a letter from the town to DCR to define the level of support. Andy conferred with the Board of Selectmen and received positive feedback about locating the rail trail on a sidewalk in Townsend Harbor. Bill, Steve, and Bob Hargraves will schedule a date to attend the Selectmen's meeting.

Groton is good to go with their letter.

Board of Directors Celebration

We considered ideas for a celebration of our pending agreement with DCR. Ideas include a road ride on a local rail trail or greenway in September, along with a cookout.

Fundraising/Publicity

We decided to wait before working on a press release and mass mailing until we have a DCR agreement. We will work on a FaceBook page when Peter Carson is available. In the meantime, we will work on our lists of contacts.

Rolland Willis pointed out that we need to get people involved before asking them for money. He added some fundraising ideas:

- Auction, raffle
- Solicit bike shops, bike groups
- Eateries along the trail
- Events such as trail walk, as soon as we have access
- Metric century ride
- Invite our email list to our FaceBook page
- Newsletter with ads

We decided to combine the Membership and Capital Campaign Subcommittees. The combined committee members are Rollin Willis, Bill Rideout, Alfred Gadway, and Joan Wotkowicz.

Fundraising Video - Bill Rideout circulated a script and received a quote of \$3500 for filming. Alfred Gadway will inquire about filming costs at Mt. Wachusett CC and Peter Cunningham will ask Groton's cable access staff.

Membership Drive - We will kick off our membership drive with a press release. In the meantime, we will research membership software, using resources like TechSoup. Rolland has used DonorTools, which costs ~ \$30/month. Rolland and Joan will research other tools.

Abutter Outreach

Townsend Historical Society - Gene Rauhala asked us to attend a monthly meeting. We need to stay in contact with them as we will need to use the Harbor Church parking lot.

Fisheries and Wildlife – Al Futterman recommended we also engage Pat Huckaree sooner rather than later.

Full vs. Partial Lease

We explored the possibility of incorporating the entire trail in a single lease. A major concern is that the environmental liability insurance will time out before we can build the whole trail. One idea for further discussion is to get the rails up right away and make a walking trail after the conditional agreement with DCR.

Financial Report

A motion to reimburse Bill Rideout \$35 instead of \$30 for financial software passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the financial report passed unanimously.

Minutes Approval

A motion to accept the minutes of our May 30 meeting passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, July 25 at 7:00 P.M. at the Nashua River Watershed Association. (We will meet upstairs because the NRWA will be occupied with another event.)

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.