

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2013

Attending:

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Review of DCR Meeting

Peter Cunningham summarized a positive meeting with DCR on June 19 at DCR headquarters in Boston. Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, and Joan Wotkowicz attended.

The outcome was a tentative agreement to the terms of our partnership and a commitment to pursue the lease with the MBTA. Commissioner Lambert agreed to start on a letter that will outline our agreement. We also met the incoming Commissioner, Jack Murray.

DCR agreed to both options for prevailing wage and they are amenable to the concept of an endowment, although they want to check on the dollar estimate for yearly maintenance. DCR will give us their standard protocol for title search and we will complete the search.

They supported our idea of starting fund raising as soon as we have the letter.

We were complimented on our tenacity.

Community Foundation Grant

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts awarded us \$18K, the 3rd highest grant award from the \$50K available. We did not expect to get so close to the \$20,000 maximum. Our intent is to use this grant as a start for fund raising.

Peter Carson represented us at the award ceremony on June 19.

We reviewed the requirements of the CF grant, which include reports that will be due on Jan15 and July 15, 2014.

A motion to authorize Steve Meehan to accept the CF grant was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Outreach

Anne O'Connor attended the grant ceremony and talked to Peter Carson and also interviewed Bill Rideout by phone. Her article will appear in local newspapers.

We will also send out a e-newsletter about the grant, the snow ambulance, and the shed demolition.

Peter Cunningham will put out a sign up sheet for our email list at the Groton River Festival.

Budget Discussion

Our next steps will be fund raising, permitting, and abutter outreach, with a goal of building next year.

We cannot start clearing trail until we have the lease, and DCR will not sign the lease until we have environmental liability insurance, title search, and maintenance endowment.

The Resor amendment is still sitting in committee. Peter Cunningham will try to move it along.

Bill will prepare budgets for both prevailing wage options including soft and hard costs.

He recommended we obtain a new estimate on rail salvage.

The next submission for Groton CPA is Oct-Nov for their spring meeting. Bruce Easom suggested we see if the town will fund us for permitting in Groton and for construction if we choose the non-prevailing wage option. Bruce cited that permitting is expected to be 10% of a project cost.

Directors Insurance

Fosters gave us a quote of \$500 per year for \$5M in coverage for Squannacook Greenways. Another quote was \$800.

Once we start fund raising and dealing with the public, including abutters, we need this insurance.

Bill Rideout made a motion that we purchase insurance when we receive the letter from DCR. Steve Meehan will have to sign as President. The motion was seconded. Bruce Easom recommended we establish a not-to-exceed amount, which we set at \$600. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Current balance is \$10,666.92.

A motion to pay Bill \$55.42 in expenses passed unanimously.

Other Business

The meeting minutes from May 24, 2013 passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **July 18** at the **NRWA**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.