

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Nashua River Watershed Association

Attending:

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Christopher Leitao, Steve Meehan, Joan Wotkowicz

Status of DCR Partnership

- We are still waiting for a draft memorandum from DCR.
- Our request for a letter from the Townsend BOS is on hold until their next meeting on September 4th or the 11th. The BOS postponed voting on the matter until they received input from the police department.
- Peter Cunningham received an estimate for environmental liability insurance of \$60-65K for a five year term.

Call to Action -- Supporters in Townsend

Recognizing that we are at a critical juncture with the Townsend BOS, we developed a plan to mobilize our email list of supporters. We decided to contact our supporters to request that they write to the BOS via Town Administrator Andy Sheehan and attend our next meeting with the BOS.

We also decided to request a meeting with Police Chief Marshall to make sure he is well-informed of the status. Peter Cunningham offered to contact the Groton Police Chief and ask him to receive a phone call from Chief Marshall to confer about Groton's experiences with patrolling the Nashua River Rail Trail.

Steve Meehan offered to confer with Bill Rideout to initiate the mailing to supporters and the meeting with the police chief.

Joan Wotkowicz suggested that all Townsend residents on our Board of Directors write letters to the Townsend Times and the Fitchburg Sentinel in addition to the BOS.

Bill Rideout has a news release that he drafted recently, which would give us additional exposure.

Joan will ask Peter Carson to place a Call to Action announcement on FaceBook.

Preparations for Townsend BOS Meeting

In addition to mobilizing supporters, we could take steps to facilitate the BOS decision:

- Submit a rough draft to the BOS of the letter requested by DCR, to clarify that we are asking only for commitment to push for the sidewalk and provide standard police protection.

- Ask Andy Sheehan to resubmit the final report of the official town SRRT Financial Feasibility Study Committee, so they can review it before the next meeting.

Fund-Raising Video

Peter Cunningham asked Kevin McKenzie about creating a rail trail video as a project for Nashoba Tech students. Kevin agreed to consider the project when the school session starts.

Grant Applications

Joan Wotkowicz recommended that we wait before submitting more applications until we have a clearer plan of the activity that need funding, such as the environmental engineering study. Joan will talk to Paul Jahnige of DCR to request feedback about our Recreational Trails Program grant application.

Environmental Permitting

Bruce Easom will look at Groton's paperwork requirements for both the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) and the Notice of Intent (NOI).

Other Business

Minutes of our July 25 meeting were approved unanimously with one correction and one abstention.

There was no financial report.

Next meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nashua River Watershed Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

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