

**Squannacook Greenways, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2016**

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guest: Benjamin Chidester

### **Eagle Scout Project**

Benjamin Chidester of Troop 5 in Littleton would like to donate 100 man hours over the next two months to work on the Townsend segment. Troop effort includes tools, logistics, additional hands to clear and haul away brush, as well as leadership present.

Bill suggested Depot Street, which is away from wetlands. Ray pointed out that we need to set guidelines such as how low to cut stumps, etc. Mark will set some guidelines that Ben will use to write a project plan that we will review. We will schedule a site walk before approving any work. As a courtesy, we will also inform the Town Administrator of Ben's project.

A motion to allow Ben to proceed with plans for the Eagle Scout project passed unanimously.

### **Event Reports**

**Townsend Historical Society** - Bill met with the Board Feb 24 about the easement at Harbor Church. We expect them to grant an easement once we get our permits. They recommend that we meet with the Townsend Historical Commission. Also, a future option for us may be ownership of Harbor Church.

**Bay State Roads** - Ray and Mark attended a Gravel Roads Workshop in Northampton.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Townsend Earth Day** (Saturday, April 23) - We will start our Buy-a-Brick campaign. Joan will work on a flyer with marketing info for the campaign and the URL to order. The flyer will also announce the clean-up day.

Groton River Festival (Sunday, June 19)

**Trail Clearing** - We will host a trail cleaning day and ask people to bring bags for trash and recycle. Don suggested we contact Shaw's to schedule a dumpster. Bruce will ask about disposal in Groton.

Tentative date: Saturday, May 14.

**UPDATE:** Tentative date for the clean-up has been moved to April 23 to take advantage of town-sponsored trash disposal during Earth Day.

**CFNCM grant workshop** (March 25) - Joan signed up to attend this workshop that is recommended for all groups who may be invited to submit full proposals.

**Coalition for Recreational Trails Annual Achievement Awards** - Once we build the trail, we may consider submitting for this award, which includes a category for public-private partnerships.

### **Fisheries and Wildlife**

Bill suggested a small group meet with Pat Huckery to discuss a parking lot along the rail trail at Bertozzi, including Cedwyn, Bruce, Steve, Bill, and Al. A motion to schedule a meeting passed unanimously.

### **Natural Heritage and Conservation Commission Permitting**

Don submitted our WPA Form 1 to Townsend Conservation Commission. As a non-profit, we will ask for a waiver of their fee for appearing at the commission. A copy was also sent to DEP.

We are scheduled to meet with the commission at 8:15 P.M. in Town Hall on Wednesday, March 23. A site walk is expected to be scheduled.

A motion to approve \$71.60 payment for the permit application passed unanimously.

### **Capital Campaign/Publicity/Outreach**

**Buy-a-Brick campaign** - Bill showed a sample engraved brick. Our Earth Day flyer will announce the campaign launch.

**"Coming Soon" signage** - Postponed for next meeting.

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

### Financial Report

Our investments at Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts lost value in 2015. A motion to move to a less risky, shorter term fund passed, with seven in favor and one opposed.

Bill will share with Joan the passwords for Workers Credit Union (checking and savings accounts), Constant Contact, and Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

Bill is looking into transferring our insurance policy to the company used by Wachusett Greenways for a lower premium.

### Abutters/ Encroachment

We discussed the change in ownership of the Hirsch Lumber property.

Pete Carson received negative letters from Groton residents. Steve will circulate the letter of opposition.

### Grant Applications

**Nashoba Valley Healthcare** - Joan received feedback about our grant application.

**DCR Recreational Trails** - Decision expected in Sept-Oct.

**Bruce J. Anderson Foundation** - Decision expected mid-May.

**CFNCM General Endowment grant** - Invitations for full application expected March 18.

### Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the **revised** meeting minutes from **February 17, 2016** passed unanimously with one abstention.

### Next Meeting

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Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 P.M.** at the **NRWA**.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk