

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Attending:

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guest: Paul Sebring

### **NHESP environmental permit application**

Mass Wildlife has reviewed our project and given approval under the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

### **MEPA Environmental Notification Form**

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office serves as the "clearinghouse" to provide information to relevant agency stakeholders. MEPA reviewed our Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and requested a site visit. Bruce, Ray, and Steve joined Erin Flaherty from MEPA, Jennifer Jones and Pat Huckery of Fisheries & Wildlife, and Corey Beckwith of DCR on June 30.

Erin Flaherty of NHESP sent us a follow-up email with a list of questions for us to clarify and suggested that we request an extension of the comment period. We need to provide feedback on the following five points:

1. Alternatives analysis for trail end and parking - Cedwyn and Bill will write up our alternatives.
2. Wildlife impacts of culverts - Cedwyn will identify and describe the location. Our intention is to perform maintenance only.
3. Land ownership easements along roadway - We do not need DOT easements as we are not building a sidewalk.
4. Article 97 protection - None of the land is covered by this regulation.
5. Mass Wildlife lands policy - Our project does not apply to Mass Wildlife land.

We discussed each question in detail. Cedwyn will develop draft responses to the questions,

circulate for review by board members, and submit by the Tuesday deadline. As requested, we will also send a hard copy and email of the amendment to Pat Huckery at Fisheries & Wildlife.

### **Groton Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission voted to require us to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) providing construction details. We need to propose a plan to address an eroded section in Groton.

Peter Cunningham and Cedwyn will prepare a draft and review with Nick Gualco, the Conservation Administrator. Mark will create an engineering drawing.

### **Townsend Conservation Commission**

No action. We will submit an RDA after we amend the MEPA ENF and Groton permits.

### **Construction plans**

Steve updated the manager of Harbor Village.

Bill received an email from a construction company that noticed our filing and would like to bid. Mark will contact them.

The consensus is that we can still make our November target to start construction, but it will be tight. Our goal is to issue an RFQ no later than September.

### **Police Night Out**

Townsend Police Department's 2nd annual National Night Out will be on August 7, 2018 at 6-8:00 PM at the North Middlesex Regional High School.

We attended last year and Bill plans to attend again.

### **Thoreau Society walk**

The group walked on July 11 and stopped at Reed Homestead. No one from our board attended.

### **Motorized vehicle signs**

On hold until we have authority to post signs.

### **DCR grant reimbursement**

Bill submitted forms to get reimbursed. We will discontinue recording hours as we have already met the grant match. As a lesson learned, we should avoid using personal credit cards as that complicates the reimbursement.

### **Community Foundation final report**

Joan reminded us that we owe a final grant report by July 31. She is preparing our narrative and Bill completed the budget submission. We discussed our approach to answering several of the questions on the report form.

### **Fundraising and financial report**

We have funds left in the DCR grant if needed for engineering. The NOI filing will cost \$2-300.

Bill paid a follow-up insurance bill.

### **Meeting minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from our June 13 meeting was seconded and passed unanimously with four abstentions.

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### **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, August 15** at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Legion.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.