

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2019

Attending:

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

Guests: Paul Sebring, John Strauss from the
Groton Parks Commission

Friends of the Townsend Seniors

Ray delivered an invitation from the Friends group to an award dinner on October 19 to recognize Townsend Ecumenical Outreach. As a non-profit, we won't donate, but members of our board are invited to attend.

MassTrails grant award

The award is still expected in mid-September. Joan distributed a time sheet for tracking our volunteer hours as soon as we sign the contract. Hours budgeted in our grant:

- Wattles installation - 120 hours
- Permit oversight (by SGI) - 57 hours
- Kiosk - 20 hours
- Signs - 20 hours
- Bollards - 42 hours
- Benches and pillar - 28 hours

What we are allowed to spend will depend on the grant contract and may differ from our request.

MBTA approval

Bill submitted our submitted our Construction Specifications and the Orders of Conditions for Townsend and Groton to the MBTA. Kenneth Belovarc of the MBTA reviewed the documents and gave his approval on August 23. His email stated "It is a very thorough specification, with orders of condition from DEP."

On August 26, Pat FitzGibbon of Greyco sent Bill a notification of approval to proceed with construction, so the MBTA approval process is finished.

NHESP approval for wattles installation

Cedwyn contacted Dave Paulson to ask if we can hand clear now and install wattles on the weekend of November 2. Dave replied "Yes, provided all work stays within the approved scope and limit of work." We agreed to begin scheduling volunteer workdays.

Volunteer Workdays

The board will start going out and flagging the wattle zones. Bruce will buy around 150 flags on wires.

September 15 - We will begin flagging (the day after the party at Bill's) at 9:00 AM. Cedwyn suggested we make a 12-foot rod to make measuring quick.

Pete Cunningham will call the Groton Cons Agent to inform them. Joan will contact Townsend. Bill will advertise the upcoming volunteer workdays.

October 19 - Volunteer day to clear brush.

November 2 - Volunteer day to place wattles.

Townsend approval for parking lot

Rich Hanks told Bill the Town Planning Board has to approve parking lots. Stan Dillis emailed Bill to say the town planner referred him to the building inspector about the Depot St. parking. Stan plans to follow up after Labor Day.

Townsend Stormwater Plan

No activity until we receive grant money.

Alternative contracting plan

Gary Shepherd suggested to Bill an approach to building the rail trail, in which we act as the general contractor and hire individual subcontractors to complete some steps of the process. Gary can recommend different contractors for each step, such as trees, stumps, remove rails, put down stone dust., etc. He thinks this approach would be more economical and efficient than hiring a general contractor and would give us greater control.

Bill will contact contractors to get prices on pulling trees and stumps.

Bruce suggested that when we do put down stone dust, we work on the wetlands first, so we can get our certifications of compliance. That means we will also be finished with wattles.

Contractor Construction Specifications

We received positive feedback on our draft from Chris Stockwell, a contractor who wants to bid. Joan asked that anyone with additional feedback send it in; otherwise the document is considered finished.

Mark will send it to Iron Horse and Powell in Lunenburg. Pete Cunningham will find out how to put it in the Central Register.

Volunteer Specifications

Joan said that the sections on clearing brush and installing wattles are ready for review. Other sections such as kiosk and signs will come later. She will send the doc out for review.

Townsend Harbor sidewalk project

No activity.

Mass Highway access permit

Pete Cunningham submitted our application. Mass Highway returned it with comments, such as parking spaces too close to 119, more information needed on utility pole in curb cut, smooth transition onto pavement, etc. We may have to provide more detail.

Pete will ask Arthur Frost to come out and look. We will probably not upgrade the parking lot this year. In the worst case, we may omit the parking lot altogether.

Project Timeline

Pete Carson will update with completed items.

Bike ride/barbecue September 14

88 South Harbor Road. 2:00 bike ride, barbecue at 3:30. People may bring salads, etc.

NRWA 50th anniversary rail trail walk

Joan described an NRWA 50th anniversary event called "Walk on the Future Squannacook River Rail Trail" scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2019, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Peter Carson and Pete Cunningham offered to help. Joan will send them details.

Fundraising and financial report

Nothing new to report.

Meeting minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on August 7, 2019 was seconded and passed unanimously with one abstention.

Fence at Sterilite

Bill offered a donation to help defray the cost. He is looking into contractors to do the job.

Groton Rail Trail

John Strauss talked about connecting parcels, such as Surrenden Farms and Groton Town Forest. He is interested in where we proceed in our next phase of the rail trail. The bridge in Ayer will be a key parcel connecting West Groton and Ayer.

Work Session: Invitation to Bid

Joan circulated another draft that incorporates feedback from Bill and Cedwyn. It also accounts for the possibility of postponing some of the

project is the bids are not within our budget.

We worked through the remaining details. Joan will distribute a final version for publication to potential bidders.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, **October 2** at the Groton Legion. **Note that this will be our annual meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.