

## **Squannacook Greenways, Inc.**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Attending:

Pete Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Dan Hager, Ray Jackson, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

This meeting was added to our regular schedule to discuss new developments and options for starting construction on the second section of rail trail.

#### **American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding**

Senators John Cronin and Ed Kennedy submitted an amendment to Massachusetts Bill S.2564 to set aside money for the rail trail.

Peter will find out if there are requirements such as getting new construction bids. He will also ask about timeline to receive the funding, as Gary Shepherd has told us he is ready to start when we give him the go-ahead.

Since we only have until March for construction, Bill would like to get the project started right away, relying on a backup plan in case the ARPA funding does not come through. Tim voiced a concern that we may not be able to apply the ARPA money retroactively to work that has already been done.

Bill feels the Harbor section is particularly important this year because the current Townsend Board of Selectmen supports construction of a sidewalk in Townsend Harbor.

#### **Construction planning**

If the ARPA amount is \$200K, we may be able to build both the Harbor and Crosswinds sections this year, with the additional Groton CPA money.

#### **Next steps**

Peter will continue trying to contact Cronin's

office to ask questions about timing and requirements. We agreed to be available for a meeting as soon as he has more information. We will then make a decision whether to give Gary the go-ahead to start.

Bill will contact Gary to update him on this new information and ask if he can complete both sections.

Before starting construction, as a courtesy we will notify the Conservation Commissions, NHESP, and abutters.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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