

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2015

Attending:

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

Guests:

Local equestrians Thekla Alcocer, Judy Lorimer, Linda McCrossan, Nandee Ann Willets, Pam DeBerardinis, Holly Saari, and Jackie Schoendorf

Input on equestrian issues

The visitors are members of Hollis Area Equestrians, Hazel Grove Agricultural Association (Groton Fairgrounds), New England Horse and Trail, and other organizations.

Pamela Deberardinis contacted Central Mass Rail Trail to inquire about their experience with impact to the trail from horses.

The group expressed the importance of Squannacook River Rail Trail as a way to connect local trails without having to tow a horse trailer. One visitor is a "driver" using horse and cart, so access issues are important. A section without stone dust, such as a parallel path, would be optimal. The side trail alongside the Nashua River Rail Trail reportedly works well.

A natural surface is best for horses, but stone dust is next best. In dry conditions, the stone dust should sustain horse travel without damage.

Hollis Area Equestrians expressed willingness to help with maintenance or organizing a fund-raiser ride.

PeopleForBikes grant due April 3

Joan will draft the full grant application based on our approved Letter of Intent. She will also coordinate obtaining the required and recommended supporting letters. Cedwyn will

draft a generic letter for supporters to use as a starting point.

Capital campaign flyer

Graphic artist Julia Egan has our review comments and is preparing a final draft. She is also conferring with her contact on ideas for printing return envelopes for donations.

Newsletter/Publicity

News about the signed lease appeared in the Groton papers, Fitchburg Sentinel, and Lowell Sun.

Bill Rideout sent out the latest newsletter by email to our mailing list and posted it on Facebook. We currently have about 800 Facebook hits and they come in steadily.

Peter Carson will put a photo of the lease signing on Facebook and also send to the Groton Herald.

Meeting with Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Several members are scheduled to meet with District Manager Patricia Huckery on March 4.

Review of Groton Conservation Summit

Steve Meehan reported that the Summit was positive, with many conservation-minded groups in attendance. Steve feels it is worth staying involved and he made contact with one group that was looking for volunteer opportunities.

Financial report/ Update on Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

Worker's Credit Union "give-back" gave us \$85.

Bill Rideout made a motion to deposit \$15,000 with the CFNCM in a short term fund. When we need a check we will need to get it from them, but we will keep some funds in our checking

account for expenditures that need fast turnaround.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Bill will write a check to open the account.

Bill and Joan both expressed the intention of making a personal donation in advance of approaching other potential donors.

Abutter letter

Bill recommended we wait until snow melts and the rail trail is visible before we initiate contacts.

Upcoming conferences and events

The rail trail is on the Townsend Selectmen meeting agenda for 6:15 on Tuesday, March 10.

MBTA lease

Joan will scan the official signed/notarized lease document and distribute PDFs to the Board of Directors. Don Klein will store the signed original in a fireproof safe.

Update on encroachment issue

Bill has continued to negotiate with MBTA for a reasonable compromise.

Review of Feb 10 and Jan 14 meeting minutes

Both documents were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Tuesday, March 31** at the **NRWA**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.