

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 14, 2017

Attending:

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

CFNCM grant award

Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts awarded us \$15K of the \$20K we requested. Joan, Ray, and Paul Sebring will attend the Donor Appreciation & Grant Distribution Event on June 15th, where we will receive a check.

Additional next steps:

- Bill and Steve submitted two online forms that were due June 14.
- We will publicize the grant award with emails, press releases, etc.
- We must submit a mid-year report by January 31, 2018 and a year-end report by July 31, 2018.

We discussed the need to show physical progress to help with final fund raising. We will solicit estimates for pulling up the rails and cutting trees as the first phase of activity.

Bruce J. Anderson grant application

We requested \$10K and decisions are expected this month. In 2016, we received an award letter on July 1.

Rail Trail Family Day

67 people attended, many families bringing wagons or strollers and some renting canoes. The 10:00 to 11:00 time slot was very sparse, as many families had conflicting activities.

As lessons learned for next time, we should fill the parking lot from the front first. We should advertise better, including flyers at the middle school and Squannacook Elementary, if it re-opens next year. We also have a stock of old rail trail signs that we could modify and post around town.

Groton River Festival

The festival had a moderate turnout. Peter Cunningham and Steve talked with several people and feel it's worth doing again next year.

Environmental permitting

We now have two lease/easement documents that are required for our MESA application.

ATV issues

We will post signage when the rail trail is built, but we also expect that activity on the trail will make it self-policing.

Upcoming events and activities

DCR Trails Conference - November 3-4 at Double Tree Inn in Leominster. Joan submitted an application to host a field trip on Friday of the conference, but did not yet receive a reply.

Celebration of 100K mark - Tentatively Sunday, September 24 for a bike ride, beer, and barbeque at corporate headquarters.

Close out Buy-a-Brick - Bill will obtain a tax ID and order the bricks, to be stored at Joan's house. A total of 170 bricks (35 for Groton and 135 for Townsend) will be packaged separately.

Financial report

With the latest grant award, our total assets are now at \$103K. We received \$1,000 from a business for the granite pillar and Bill plans to meet with more businesses. We also received \$60 from Amazon Smile.

Review of meeting minutes

Minutes from our meeting on May 10, 2017 were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, July 19 at 7:00 P.M.** at the **Groton Legion**.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz, Clerk

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