

Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee (Townsend)

Minutes of Public Meeting of June 3, 2010 (approved July 8, 2010)

Location: Townsend Library, Townsend, MA

Time: 8:00 pm

Members Present: Steve Meehan (Chairman), Bill Rideout (Secretary), Ken Gerken, Bill Martin, Hirk Fortin

Members Absent: None

Attendees: Bruce Easom, Peter Cunningham, Pete Carson, Russ Murray (Groton committee), Al Futterman (NRWA), Mark Cram, Collen Geddis, Cheryl Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz, and Anne O'Connor (Townsend Times).

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. The first agenda item was the tour of the Mass Central Rail Trail with Wachusett Greenways member Ed Yaglou. The tour was held on April 28, 2010. The notes sent out by Bill Rideout (see attached below) were reviewed. It was agreed we needed to better understand the agreement between Wachusett Greenways and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Al Futterman volunteered to contact Ed Yaglou, and invite him to a future meeting. In regard to the flood damage section of the notes, Bill Martin added that the flooding he had seen behind his house during previous year's flood had involved water flowing down the railbed, which could cause serious washout of a stonedust trail.

The next agenda item was the proposed upcoming meeting with Conrad Crawford and Tom LaRosa of DCR. Peter Cunningham said he had been in contact with Conrad, and were considering a meeting the first or second week of July. Al Futterman mentioned the issue of liability coverage for friends groups that Conrad and the Friends of Willard Brook had worked on, and suggested we discuss with DCR whether that might also cover us.

The next agenda item was the meeting Al Futterman had set up with Townsend's interim Town Administrator Andy Sheehan, Steve Meehan, and Bill Rideout. Bill noted that Andy had had some involvement with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and thus knew many of the standard rail trail issues. Bill Martin asked whether that meeting had violated open meeting law. Bruce Easom said it did not since a quorum was not involved. However, we agreed that when future committee members had ad-hoc meetings with town officials, the rest of the group would be notified via email. For planned meetings, the committee would vote on representatives to send.

The Townsend minutes for April 22, 2010 were passed unanimously. The next meeting was scheduled for July 8, 2010 in Groton.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rideout

Secretary, Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee