

Squannacook Greenways (pre-incorporation) meeting minutes

Mar. 17, 2011

Squannacook Greenways held a meeting on Mar 17, 2011 in Town Hall in Groton. In attendance were Steve Meehan , Bill Rideout, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Pete Carson, Al Futterman, and Joan Wotkowicz.

Peter Cunningham told the group that he had sent a rough draft of the memorandum of agreement to Conrad Crawford at DCR. Peter said that he would follow up soon with Conrad about any feedback. Peter also noted that he had briefed our new state representative Sheila Harrington and Groton's state senator Eileen Donoghue about the rail trail status. Also, Peter noted that former state representative Bob Hargraves was leaning toward joining Squannacook Greenways' board of directors.

Al Futterman reported on his conversation with an official from Danvers. He told Al that Iron Horse had planned to finish the rail trail in nine weeks, and that it was still not finished nine months later. We discussed the overall pattern that Iron Horse was following in building rail trails. They are in effect getting paid up front via the salvage value, so there is reduced impetus to finish the trail. There was general agreement that we will need to win some grant money to build our trail, even with the rail's salvage value. Bill Rideout noted he was planning to contact a representative from Topsfield who had also worked with Iron Horse.

Mark Cram reported on the work he and Alfred Gadway had been doing on engineering and specifications. Mark said they had acquired specifications from Wachusett Greenways and VHB's specifications for the Northern Rail Trail in New Hampshire. Mark noted that based on those specs, our trail would require \$70K in stone dust raw material costs. He also noted that he estimated the value of the steel in the rails to be \$110K. Alfred had emailed some results of his inspections of Iron Horse trails, and noted he planned to inspect them to later to see how well they held up to winter and spring.

Pete Carson reported on his work on bylaws. He had a copy of Wachusett Greenways bylaws, and also had some general information on bylaws development. It was agreed that Pete would develop a first draft of proposed bylaws, and then circulate them to board of directors for comments before the next meeting.

We next discussed our mission statement. The final version that was agreed on was:

The mission of Squannacook Greenways is to build, maintain, and promote the Squannacook River Rail Trail as a source of recreation and safe non-motorized transportation. Squannacook Greenways will also work to integrate the Squannacook River Rail Trail with other facilities, such as trails and sidewalks, to encourage human-powered transportation and improve access to our areas' natural, cultural, and historical resources.

We agreed that our overall plan was to be ready to incorporate soon, so that if DCR is prepared to sign the lease, we would be a legal entity also. We agreed that the goal for the next meeting would be to have a draft application of incorporation. Bill Rideout agreed to put this together once a version of the draft bylaws was available.

Bill Rideout mentioned the non-profit insurance seminar he had attended, described in a separate

email. Bill will also contact Wachusett Greenways and Emily Norton of Friends of Willard Brook for insurance advice. He will talk to several insurance agents to get bids. Peter Cunningham said he would talk to Tom LaRosa about whether DCR might provide insurance of any sort. It was also suggested to contact Rails-To-Trails to see if they offered insurance with a possible group discount.

Joan Wotkowicz briefed us on her discussions with Ed Torcoletti and Bruce Colburn of Willard Brook State Park. She reported that they were very excited about the possible rail trail and were looking for ways for us to work together.

Mark Cram talked about the Earth Day event in Townsend on April 30, 2011 from 10 to 3. He had signed up for a table. A number of Townsend members said they could attend. Joan Wotkowicz and Bill Rideout volunteered to put together an updated handout on the status of the rail trail. Also, Pete Carson noted that he planned to lead a tour of the Mass Central Rail Trail for any Crosswind Drive residents that were interested.

The next meeting was planned for Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7 pm at the Nashua River Watershed Association. This is intended strictly as a Squannacook Greenways meeting.

Bill Rideout