

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Kimball House, Townsend, MA

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Al Futterman (NRWA), Alfred Gadway, Bob Hargraves, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Rollin Willis, Joan Wotkowicz

Financial Report

Bill Rideout (Treasurer) handed out a summary report showing \$4,425.40 net assets. Bill noted that both he and Bruce Easom (President) can sign checks at Worker's Credit Union.

Conflict of Interest Bylaw and 501(c)(3) Application

Bill forwarded required text to Peter Carson for our Conflict of Interest policy as required on the IRS application for 501c3.

A motion to accept the addition of Article 11 (Conflict of Interest) to our Bylaws passed unanimously.

A motion to submit our 501c3 application along with the fee not to exceed \$1,000 passed unanimously.

Status of DCR Negotiations

Peter Cunningham expressed frustration that he has not yet received a response as promised from Commissioner Lambert. He solicited ideas for ways to ramp up this effort.

Report on Massachusetts Trails Conference

Five of the Board of Directors attended the conference on Nov 12 presented by the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board (MARTAB) in partnership with DCR. Rail trails, hikers, bicyclists, ATVs, equestrians, and other groups have representation on MARTAB, who make the first cut for the DCR recreational trails grants.

Alfred Gadway summarized the conference as attended by other trail builders in need of funding and MARTAB as a perfect entity to form a group among trail builders.

The following link is a follow-up to conference resources:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/publications.htm>

(Scroll down to "2011 Massachusetts Trails Conference Resources: Presentations and Session Notes")

Report on Meeting with Wachusett Greenways

Following the trails conference on Nov 12, Mark Cram, Bill Rideout, and Joan Wotkowicz met with Colleen Abrams and Ed Yaglou from the Board of Directors of Wachusett Greenways. When asked about the cost per mile of stone dust trail after the ties are removed, Ed estimated \$100K per mile while Colleen recommended using \$200K per mile as the working figure.

When asked how to strengthen our case with DCR, Colleen recommended that we have \$50K in the bank. Wachusett Greenways recognizes large donors with their names in granite and even larger donors with a granite bench. Colleen gave us some examples of promotional brochures and their annual report.

Construction and Maintenance Budget

Mark estimated that selling the rails at the current price would give a net gain of about \$25K per mile. Assuming a cost of \$100K per mile for construction, we could complete approximately one mile with the proceeds from 3.7 miles of rails.

Ideas for Fundraising

Bill suggested we make up a list of people we can appeal to based on their interest in SRRT. We should explain our budget, the levels of donation, etc. We need to develop promotional materials first.

Rolland Willis had fundraising experience that we may tap into. He cautioned that funds should be unrestricted if possible; otherwise we must be very explicit about what they will get used for. The idea of “giving them back if we don’t build the trail” may be problematic, with legal and tax implications.

We discussed whether we needed to hear from DCR before starting a capital campaign and agreed that we should tell the Commissioner we are starting the campaign. The time frame will be next spring.

Recreational Trails Program Council of Advisors

Bill asked if we should become members of a coalition that was formed to try to keep funding for trails in the federal surface transportation program. The coalition intends to send letters to congresspeople in support of the Recreational Trails Program.

A motion to join the coalition passed unanimously.

Townsend SRRT Committee

The Townsend Board of Selectmen has dissolved the official town committee, which was appointed to study rail trail funding. Members were Ken Gerkin, Bill Martin, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, and Hirk Fortin who was later replaced by Mark Cram.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm at the Kimball House in Townsend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz (Clerk)

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