

Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee (Townsend)

Minutes of Public Meeting of Dec. 16, 2010 (Approved Jan 20, 2011)

Location: MemorialHall, Townsend, MA

Time: 7:00 pm

Members Present: Steve Meehan (Chairman), Bill Rideout (Secretary), Mark Cram, Bill Martin, Hirk Fortin

Members Absent: None

Attendees: Peter Cunningham, Russ Murray, Pete Carson (Groton committee), Al Futterman (NRWA), Ken Gerken, Joan Wotkowicz, Alfred Gadway, Roland Willis

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. The first topic was a follow-up on our negotiations with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Al Futterman said that he had spoken with Conrad Crawford of DCR about the meeting date, and they had agreed it would be better if the meeting was moved to January. Al mentioned that Conrad wanted to invite Dan Driscoll and Danny O'Brien from DCR, and also Priscilla Geigis, DCR State Park Director. It was noted that Rick Sullivan, DCR Commissioner, had been promoted to be the new secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the agency to which DCR reports. Peter Cunningham said he would follow up with Conrad after Jan. 7th.

Bill Rideout discussed his meeting with Townsend town administrator Andy Sheehan on Dec. 7, 2010 on the sidewalk proposal in Townsend Harbor. Bill noted that he had mentioned to Andy that all affected landowners who might need to have an easement had been contacted, and none had stated that they would want remuneration. Andy discussed bringing the issue before the selectmen in January in combination with an interim report from the rail trail committee, since the two issues were interrelated. Bill also noted that he and Andy agreed that getting Gary Shepherd's approval for any sidewalk design was essential to minimize the impact on the Shepherd's business.

Next, the draft report to the selectmen was edited. After editing was complete, the Townsend committee voted unanimously to release the report as amended. A copy of the final report is attached.

The Townsend minutes for Nov. 18, 2010 were unanimously approved after being amended. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011 in Groton. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rideout  
Secretary, Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee