

Squannacook Greenways, Inc. | April 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Attendees

Directors

Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Emma Grazier, Frank Murphy, Tim Palmer, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz, Dan Hager, Rick Bailey

Guests

Bruce Easom, Pete Carson

Agenda

1. Project Updates

- Groton Extension: Discuss strategy w/ WGRTC given issues obtaining freight rights
- Townsend Harbor: Trestle bridge repairs; Old Harbor Village updates
- Townsend Extension: Application filed with Greystone Realty; Bill to debrief on meeting with Kieran Meehan (Townsend Housing & Grants Administrator)

2. Maintenance & Events

- Townsend 250th March (debrief)
- Earth Day (Saturday, April 26, 10-3)
- Schedule Trail Walk w/ Shlomiya Lightfoot from InLand
- Work Day (Saturday, May 10, 9-12ish)
- Girl Scouts Bike Rodeo (Thursday, June 19)

3. Grants

- Discuss how to spend remaining Wild & Scenic Grant money

4. Financial & Fundraising Reports

- Approve FY 2024 Form 990 (see attached)
- Insurance policy remarketing

5. Review [March Meeting Minutes](#)

6. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn

Notes

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM

1. Project Updates

Groton Extension:

- Bruce Easom & Pete Carson joined meeting to represent WGRTC
- WGRTC officially awarded Groton CPA grant
- Genesee & Wyoming now declining to relinquish freight rights due to additional demands for rail service in Ayer

- Board discussed alternative options for trail terminus - no decisions reached - leaning towards a “wait and see” strategy as many factors (e.g., economics, permitting, project costs, etc.) are in flux for G&W.
- Board noted that we could contact Tim McGuire about the dynamics of MEPA permitting now that our ability to secure ownership/lease rights for this portion of trail is less certain.

Townsend Harbor:

- Gary Shepherd installed new surface and guardrails on the two trestle bridges

Townsend Extension:

- Application filed with Greystone Realty (handles MBTA real estate)
 - Bill to send Peter the trail cross section drawings
- Bill met with the new Townsend Housing & Grants Administrator Kieran Meehan (no relation to Steve). Kieran is interested in applying for an MVP grant for culvert improvements along the trail.

2. Maintenance & Events

Maintenance:

- Concern about overflowing dumpster behind Townsend Harbor shopping center
 - Peter to call real estate company to inquire about resolving the situation
- Fence-Building Work Day (Saturday, May 10, 9-12ish)
 - Mark to circulate a list of tools to bring

Other Events:

- Debrief: Townsend 250th March (Saturday, April 19)
 - ~200 people gathered on Townsend Common, then marched down the Rail Trail to the Reed Homestead to learn/honor/celebrate Townsend’s role in the American Revolution.
 - All agreed this was a wonderful community event!
 - Bill has photos of hordes of people using the trail for future grant applications.
- Earth Day Fair @ NMRHS (Saturday, April 26, 10-3)
 - Attendee: Bill, Cheryl, Mark
 - Emma to drop updated flyers in Bill’s mailbox
- Schedule Trail Walk w/ Shlomiya Lightfoot from InLand
 - Sunday, May 18, mid-afternoon
 - Bill, Emma, maybe Dan, maybe Joan?
- Girl Scouts Bike Rodeo @ NMRHS (Thursday, June 19)
 - Bill to circulate info to mailing list and social media

3. Grants

Wild & Scenic Grant:

- Approx. \$200 left to spend

- Board agreed Mark should purchase raw materials for a kiosk to eventually be placed by the bricks at the end of the trail.

4. Financial & Fundraising Reports

- FY 2024 Form 990
 - Joan moved to approve, Mark seconded, all in favor
- Insurance Policy
 - Bill requesting our insurance agent remarket the policy this year

5. Review [March Meeting Minutes](#)

- Joan moved to approve, Bill seconded, all in favor

6. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn

- Next meeting: May 21 at 7 PM

Meeting adjourned 7:58 PM