Squannacook Greenways, Inc. - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Attendees

Directors	Peter Cunningham, Joan Wotkowicz, Bill Rideout, Mark Cram, Dale Gates, Emma Shepherd, Daniel Hager
Guests	Chris St. Germain, Mary Wilson, Justin Baer, Susan Smiley

Notes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

1. **Guest speakers: Lunenburg Snowriders (LSR) partnership proposal**

Why partner with the Lunenburg Snow Riders?

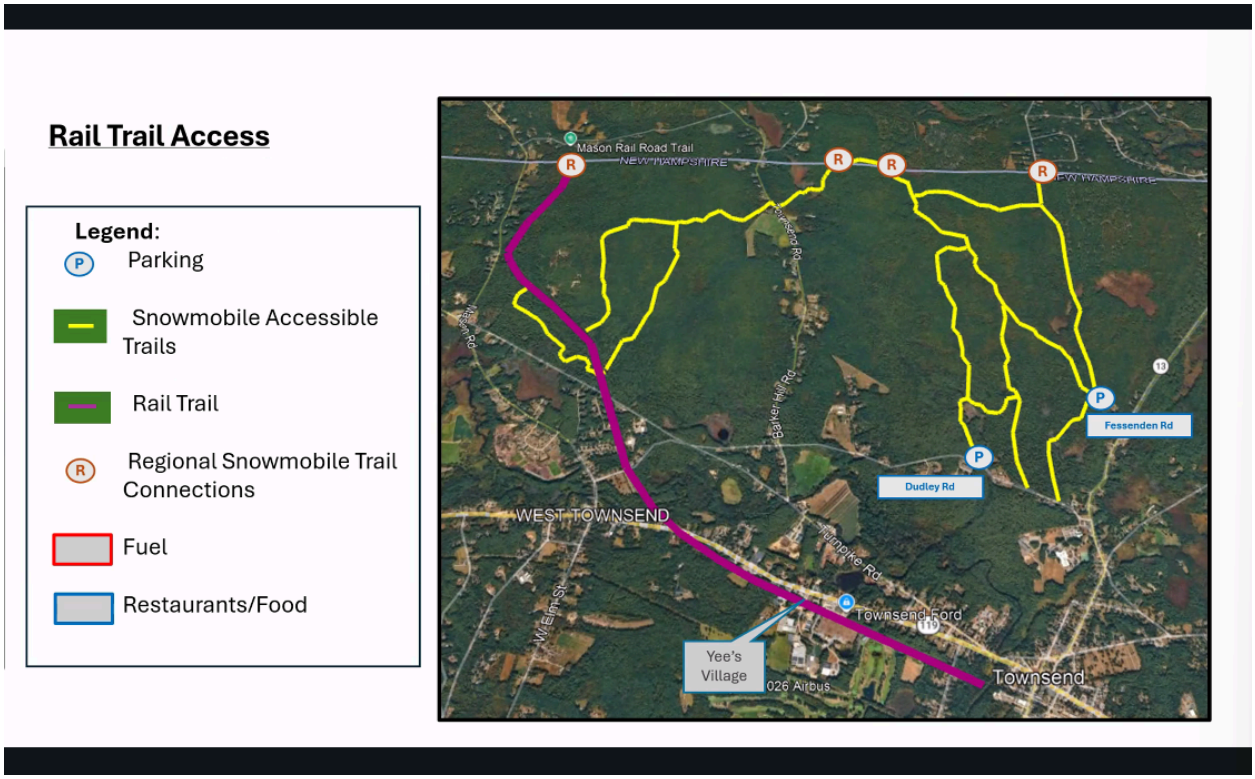
- Committed and proven advocates for conservation
- Active and proven success with grant writing ($200k+)
    - Use volunteer trail hours for the “in kind” matching (see “Award Grant Summary” slide below)
- Support year-round trail stewardship initiatives (clean-ups, invasive plant remediation, boardwalk, bridge installation, parking improvement, kiosks, etc.)
- Expert heavy equipment operators for erosion repair and other damage (good relationship with Powell Stone & Gravel for equipment rentals)
- Provide oversight for the local snowmobiling community (e.g., address issues with improper/unauthorized use, etc.)
- Although snowmobile-focused, they also care broadly about local outdoor/open space access (e.g., grants for improving ADA access, etc.)

Award Grant Summary

Year	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total Grant Project	Purpose
2011	$27,200	$8,417	$35,617	Multi-season Trail Improvement (257 Volunteer hours) and tracked Kubota Groomer & Drag acquisition for winter grooming.
2013	$24,258	$11,441	$35,700	Construction of a handicap viewing platform, erosion and drainage installation of various trails, construction of new connector trail, acquisition of trail maintenance equipment.
2015	$34,799	$14,726	$49,525	Construction of a parking lot, various trail improvements, construction of 5-foot bridges, drainage, trail marking, construction of trailhead kiosk, construction of multi-use bridge. Skandic Groomer acquisition.
2017	$34,664	$8,960	$43,624	Multi-use trail improvements (240 Volunteer hours) and tracked Kubota Groomer acquisition for winter grooming
2022	$32,921	$8514	$41,175	Various trail improvements, erosion controls and repair, Kiosk construction & installation. Tracked ATV Groomer acquisition.

Where would the snowmobile usage stop and how would that be managed?

- Snowmobile usage would adhere to the designated trail corridor, focused on the section going north from Townsend Center (see purple line in map below)



What access routes would connect with the snowmobile section of the rail trail?

- LSR aims to integrate this segment into the existing regional network.
- Goal to provide a significant economic boost to the local businesses near Townsend Center and Harbor.

What maintenance support could LSR provide?

- Labor and equipment necessary to fix erosion or trail damage, ensuring the path remains sustainable year-round.

Who would take the lead in negotiations with the MBTA?

- LSR suggests joint representation could be the most effective approach (SG to discuss in next month's board meeting).

SG retains the right to disallow access if problems develop that cannot be solved.

- Yes, LSR agrees to this point.

2. **Project Updates**
   a. Groton Extension

i. Dillis & Roy will be taking another look at a washed-out Groton trail section and conducting additional environmental review.

b. Townsend Harbor
   i. Contractor kickoff meeting held 4/1
   ii. Site walk with Dillis & Roy and McKenzie, Inc. held 4/10.
      - McKenzie felt positive about the condition of the first trestle - sight line is very straight and hasn't deviated/sagged.
      - Still needs to take core samples, but there may be fewer structural issues than originally thought.

c. Townsend Extension
   i. Lease signed by MBTA (Kudos to Peter's efforts here!)

3. Maintenance and Events

a. Spring Trail Clean-Up (TBD - need to schedule)
   i. Weather not yet warm enough to tell what maintenance may be needed
   ii. Peter (and/or other Board members) to go out and survey before the next meeting to see if a clean-up day is needed

b. Townsend Earth Day Celebration (April 25, 10 AM–3 PM, NMRHS).
   i. Mark Cram to take lead in staffing SG table
   ii. Emma Shepherd updated flyers and printed copies for handing out

c. Townsend 250th Parade bicycle decorating (June 20)
   i. Awaiting feedback from Townsend Recreation or other organizations on joining us for the decorating station

4. Grants and Collaborations

a. MassTrails Grant
   i. Progress discussed in Section 2 above

b. Wild & Scenic Community Grant w/ InLand
   i. Wild & Scenic Council shared that they received a large number of applicants this year and encouraged us to adjust the budget (Joan is working with Shlomiya on this).
   ii. Shlomiya also found an interesting grant from the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, but SG board members determined we do not hold any of the required professional memberships to apply.

5. Financial and Fundraising Reports

Not presented this month

6. Review March Meeting Minutes

Joan W moved to approve; Peter C seconded; All attending in favor

7. Adams Dam Study Update

- Joan attended an onsite meeting this week with ~20 representatives from Townsend and the Commonwealth to discuss the Adams Dam study.
- Joan notes that the results of the study could be useful for SG, and that the authors are interested in SG sharing information from our trestle testing if possible. The board agrees that this is possible.

8. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

Next meeting: May 20, 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned 7:47 PM