Squannacook Greenways, Inc. - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Attendees

Directors	Peter Cunningham, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz, Frank Murphy, Emma Shepherd, Dan Hager, Dale Gates, Mark Cram, Linda Mack
Guests	

Notes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

1. **Project Updates**

    a. **Groton Extension**

    Bill sent additional documentation to Bruce to supplement the invoice (describing the work that has been completed). Assume lack of response means documentation was satisfactory.

    LEC to conduct the environmental analysis. Bill to contact them in early June to ensure they're able to spend a portion of the funds before June 31 per MassTrails' request.

    b. **Townsend Harbor**

    Shlomiya Lightfoot (InLand) is coordinating a site visit with two outside experts on invasive species management. The goal of this meeting is to gather information to start developing a plan for invasive species removal/replacement in the Harbor Church area. She hopes to have representation from SG and the Townsend Historical Society at the site visit (date and time TBD via email).

    Shlomiya is also beginning to plan a community event for invasive species education and removal using the Wild & Scenic grant funding (targeting July or August). She wonders what days and times typically work best for community events in SG's experience.

    - Board feels that Sunday afternoons would be a good time.

    Bill to contact Frank McPartlan (Dillis & Roy) about the status of the permitting proposal for the Harbor Church parking lot.

c. Townsend Extension

Dillis & Roy sent separate bills for Groton and Townsend. Bill paid the Townsend bill directly, but will wait to ask Amanda (MassTrails) for reimbursement because the current bill is only $6k and we're hoping to add LEC's cost to that same request before June 31.

2. Maintenance and Events

a. Earth Day Fair (4/25)

Mark shared that it was a nice day and the turnout was good, but maybe a little less than last year. Lots of positive feedback from visitors to our table. People are excited about the extension!

b. Townsend 250th Parade (6/20)

Girl Scout Troop 65303 to assist us with the bicycle decorating station.

Board discussed materials and other preparation needed:

<u>Advertising Signs</u>
Bill purchased big signs for the bicycle event.

Emma to ask Glen to put one up at Cherry Hill Too.

Emma to grab a handful of extra metal sign stakes for Bill.

Joan to ask Matt to put one up near Evans.

<u>Day-of Plan</u>
SG Board Attendees: Bill, Cheryl, Dan, Peter, Emma, Frank.

Come to Scales Lane and park at Sterilite office parking at 9:30 to set up.

Kids will come by 10 to start decorating.

Parade starts at 11.

c. Spring Trail Clean-Up (TBD)

Board discussed priorities for spring trail clean-up/maintenance:

<u>Crosswinds Signage</u>
Pete Carson mentioned that the signage up at Crosswinds is in rough shape (falling over) and should be updated/more permanently installed.

Mark Cram has the new signs and post materials and can install.

Mowing

Peter to check with Groton Highway Department about mowing in Groton.

Volunteers have typically mowed in Townsend. Not certain who may be able to do it this year.

d. Groton River Festival (June 14)

Peter will attend on behalf of SG.

Emma to share the flyer file with Peter so he can print copies for the festival.

3. Lunenburg Snow Riders (LSR)

Board members discussed LSR's partnership proposal from April's board meeting and developed an official position and next steps:

Motion: Squannacook Greenways will cooperate with the Lunenburg Snow Riders in their effort to work with the MBTA to secure snowmobile access on the northern extension of our trail.

- Joan moved, Frank seconded, all voted in favor.

Peter to contact LSR and share our intent to cooperate. SG will help LSR set up a meeting with the MBTA and suggest LSR develop a proposal that draws from examples of other snowmobile clubs that have worked with the MBTA. SG also advises LSR to gather letters of support from an array of state/local policymakers to help enhance their case.

Board members also discussed establishing a speed limit for our trail:

Motion: The Squannacook River Rail Trail's speed limit shall be 15 MPH.

- Linda moved, Frank seconded, all voted in favor.

4. Grants

a. MassTrails Grant

Covered under "Project Updates"

b. Wild & Scenic Community Grant w/ InLand

Kudos to Shlomiya and Joan for winning this grant!

Award amount is $5,120 for expert initial site assessment, invasive species management plan development, and community event planning and execution.

The community event is tentatively set for July or August, and will entail education and a hands-on invasive species management project (TBD after management plan development).

5. **Financial and Fundraising Reports**

Bill noted that we should expect Townsend Community Preservation grant applications to open in the fall.

6. **Review April Meeting Minutes**

Joan moved to approve the April minutes. Frank seconded. All voted in favor.

7. **Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 7 PM

Meeting adjourned 7:50 PM