Squannacook Greenways BOD Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Attendees: Peter Cunningham, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz, Mark Cram, Dan Hager, Frank Murphy

Note: *The following minutes were produced by Zoom's AI Companion and lightly edited for spelling and clarity by Emma Shepherd.*

Overview

The meeting reviewed trail property issues, stormwater damage, grant funding, and maintenance planning for Squannacook Greenways.

Property Issues

- A fence or railing installed near the canal may encroach on the rail trail right of way.
- Peter will formally notify Greystone and the MBTA; the ownership dispute involving Hollingsworth and Vose remains unresolved.

Funding Plans

- The MassTrails project is delayed while Frank completes wetlands-related work and provides information to Natural Heritage staff.
- The group supported pursuing approximately $40,000 in state matching funds and a federal earmark for trestle bridge repairs.
- A smaller MassTrails request may cover drainage repairs near Harbor Auto and mechanical trail-edge maintenance.

Trail Conditions

- The washout behind Harbor Village Mall remains rideable but needs cleanup and a sustainable stormwater solution.
- The trestle bridges need debris and log removal; the group agreed this may require professional help.
- A fall cleanup was tentatively set for November 14 at 9:00 a.m., meeting at Cherry Hill.

Action Items

- Send a formal letter to Liam Breen at Greystone documenting the trail encroachment and provide Hollingsworth and Vose contact information for resolution.
- Resend the document explaining the deed and title history behind Hollingsworth and Vose's incorrect land-ownership claim. (@Bill Rideout)
- Attend the next Conservation Commission meeting to monitor the washout enforcement order and planned trail cleanup and stormwater repairs.
- Follow up with Amanda to confirm payment of the first Mass Trails Grant reimbursement. (@Bill Rideout)
- Ask Gary for cost estimates for repairing the trail behind Harbor Auto, adding roadside drainage, and mechanically clearing organic material from affected trail sections for the proposed Mass Trails Grant application. (@Bill Rideout)
- Inspect the debris and accumulated logs at the trestle bridge to help determine the appropriate removal method and contractor requirements.
- Contact Congresswoman Trahan's office to determine whether an earmark could support trestle bridge repairs and debris removal.

Next Meeting

October 14 at 7:00 PM