

Bow Open Spaces, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014

Board Attendees: Bob Lux, Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Ken Demain, Hilary Warner, Frank Boucher , Martin Murray, Eric Thum, Mike Morris

Member Attendees: Beth Lux, Craig Ott

Guest: Mark Dube - Bow Pioneers

Secretary's Report: After discussion and review, the October 7 minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Frank distributed the current report. Frank wrote reimbursement checks to Bob Dawkins – new leaf blower, Hilary – construction materials for trail bridges, and Ken for chain saw repairs. The report was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Membership Committee: Bob Dawkins reported receiving 12 more membership renewals for 2014 – 2015, bringing the total to 44 members. Several members increased their membership level or made additional donations. Twelve members made membership donations of \$100.00 each. The Election Day BOS table was not productive. The layout of the room did not invite voters to stop and spend time at any of the committee tables.

Stewardship Report: Ken distributed a spreadsheet listing the easement properties, the acreage, and the dates of stewardship walks for the past four years. Discussion on this year's walks yielded the following schedule and participants:

NCF – South Bow Road side; Bob Dawkins, Ken and Eric

Hammond – Ken and Bob Lux

Knox – Eric, Ken, Hilary, and Jeff

Titus/Lindquist – Bob Lux, Ken and Harry

Walker – Hampshire Hills side and Bow Pioneers activity; 11/18, Ken and Bob Lux

Boucher – completed on 9/29 - Ken

Stone Sled – completed on 11/6 – Ken

Old Johnson Road – Ken

Bob Dawkins asked the BCC to fund a property survey on the Richardson easement, but the BCC declined. Bob emphasized that on future easements BOS must require the property have a legal survey and blazed property lines before BOS will accept an easement. The Hammond property is blazed now.

As an easement holder BOS received notice that Mary Boucher intends to transfer ownership of her land to her children.

Public Relations: Martin published a fall newsletter on October 19. Martin reported sending the newsletter to 107 recipients with 59 opening the newsletter, a good percentage. The illegal dumping in NCF story was carried in the Union Leader, thanks to the Bow PD the perpetrator was arrested and the trash was removed. Martin reminded the group to put info on Facebook and share what you see on the BOS Facebook page to increase the number of FB users knowing about BOS. Martin met Phyllis Benoit from the OLLI organization – olli.granite.edu – which offers classes and activities for adults 50 years of age and older. Bob Lux volunteered to lead an hike next year for OLLI members.

Trail Report: Hilary and Jeff hosted a Trail Work day on October 25th. The volunteers completed building a new bridge on the Robinson Crest Trail and did some trail trimming. Bob Dawkins and Mike Lax did some string trimming on the trails in NCF and leaf blowing of the trails in NCF, but there is still more to be done. The lower half of the Steerbrook trail and the Cascade Brook trail need leaf blowing and trimming. Bob emphasized we need more trail adopters to maintain NCF and the existing trail adopters need to do some maintenance more often – every 2 or 3 months. The group agreed BOS needs to do more self-promotion to get residents involved in trail maintenance.

Craig Ott and Mark Dube presented the Bow Pioneers plans to modify and add to existing trails to maintain trail continuity due to the new subdivision near Merrill Crossing. After discussion, The Bow Pioneers will avoid crossing existing NCF hiking trails and flag the proposed trail changes for BOS to review.

Hilary filed a DRED application for a grant to fund enhancements to Knox Road Forest including improved trail heads with kiosks, new signage and updated maps. Hilary received approval from Nancy Rheinhardt to file for the grant.

BOS to do list:

Page Road lot – at Nancy’s recommendation this town owned property should be put to town vote in 2015 to create a conservation easement to BOS.

Peaslee Estates- use right of way to create trail/access from Peaslee Estates into Nottingcook Forest

Robinson’s Crest Trail- this is a new and almost completed trail that will need a couple of bridges and signage

Eastman Trail- this is a new trail under construction (almost complete) by Jim Jensen in the Walker Forest. It needs access trail built from Hampshire Hills Drive.

Work with Dan Weed of the Bow Pioneers snowmobile club to create trail that accommodates more than snowmobiles from Branch Londonderry Turnpike (near Walker Forest) through Richardson easement, across Page Rd, through Village Shores and linking up with Bow High School trails

Create a new trail map for Nottingcook Forest

Update map for Knox Road and School Forests

Formalize access to Nottingcook Forest from end of Hope Lane

Next Meeting: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 2 at 7PM in the Old Town Hall located at 91 Bow Center Road. The board voted to adjourn the meeting.

The approved June 2011 BOS Goals list will be included in each month’s meeting minutes for reference.

Completed Goals

1. Make a serious effort to find additional board members.
2. Public presentations to area clubs such as Rotary, Men's Club. Bow Pioneers, Young At Heart, etc. Presentation give to Bow Rotary 03/16/12
3. Add one new conservation easement per year for the next five years
2013 Mary Boucher conservation easement
2013 Guimond property purchased
2011 Pat Richardson conservation easement
2011 Andrew Richardson conservation easement

In Progress Goals

1. Contact non participating members for assistance with stewardship monitoring
2. Improve relations with the selectmen. Meet with them to educate the board what we are doing for the town.
3. Work with the BCC to develop long range plan for protecting additional land
4. Increase membership to 100 members, including business memberships.
5. Contact older residents that may be interested in protecting their properties
6. Attempt to have a BCC member become a BOS board member
7. Contact all BCC members and ask them to become members of BOS
8. Consider grant for part-time executive director
9. Finalize stewardship documentation and have proper catalog of completed work