

Bow Open Spaces, Inc.

Meeting December 5, 2017

Minutes

Board Attendees: Harry Hadaway, Ken Demain, Hilary Warner, Bob Lux, Bob Dawkins, and Eric Thum.

Members: Beth Lux

Guests: Scott Oosterveen, Steve Gallier, Laura Doherty and Sandy Crystall

Secretary's Report:

After discussion and review, the November 7, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

After discussion and review, the November 7, 2017 treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

Membership Report:

Bob said BOS has two new memberships. He will send personal emails to those who have not renewed this past year.

Stewardship Report:

Ken reported the new red plastic signs have been approved. One sheet of plywood will make 32 backing boards for the signs. He should get 100 signs in two weeks. Will use aluminum nails to attach signs to trees.

Bob Lux will team up with Ken on stewardship work.

Public Relations Report:

Martin reported \$1,041 in PayPal. Discussion ensued of people who have donated through PayPal. Martin asked Frank to link BOS account at Merrimack with PayPal. PayPal does not require minimum amount in account. They charge a transaction fee.

Trail Report:

Hilary met with Sandy Crystall to discuss the trail project approval process. Sandy said BOS will need to submit a Dredge and Fill Application to DES and have a wetlands delineation done by a wetlands scientist for the stream crossing on Robertson Trail. Carl Benedict at DES would help process the application.

Hilary showed pictures of the new BOS hats. Eric suggested giving a free hat to new BOS members. Hilary will check on quantity price breaks.

Trail Subcommittee will meet Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Sandy wants stepping stones on the Robertson Trail crossing.

Hilary will send an email to the mountain bikers concerning their trail construction in Nottingcook Forest. Bob Lux said the trail is quite steep with a lot of flags marking the path.

Sandy Crystall Presentation:

Bow Conservation Commission Chair Sandy Crystall presented a program on the need for a natural resources inventory (NRI) of Bow properties. Bow has the following information for conservation lands:

1. Bow has 3,055 acres of conservation land.
2. Bow just finished a Master Plan update for 2017.
3. Open Space Trail System Plan done in 2000.
4. Timber Cruise Plan done by Town Forester.
5. Wildlife Action Plan.

Bow is lacking information to manage the natural communities on a site-specific basis. Sandy presented a list of rare, threatened, or endangered species in Bow. The NRI is a compilation of existing data which provides a basis for zoning and local conservation planning. Pembroke completed an NRI at a cost of \$40,000. Preliminary NRI steps would include evaluation of Bow trails and finding ways to minimize impact on wildlife. Sandy showed maps of Nottingcook Forest and how certain trails are very close to each other. She said after evaluation of Enfield's hiking trails, the town closed a number of trails to reduce impact on wildlife. Conservation Commission will discuss the NRI at the December meeting. Sandy wants to hire a professional to do the NRI, noting that it may take a year to complete. Discussion ensued concerning impact on wildlife from snowmobiles, unleashed dogs, and mountain bikers. Sandy thought there should be a limit on new trail construction. Martin asked if other NRIs have action steps to close or relocate trails to reduce or eliminate impact on flora and fauna. He expressed concern about possible backlash to closing trails by the public. Eric requested the Bow Pioneers be included in this discussion due to the many miles of trails they maintain in Bow.

New Business:

Next BOS newsletter will be released in early January.

Next BOS Meeting:

The next meeting is January 2, 2017 (6:30 p.m.) at the Baker Free Library. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

