

**Bow Open Spaces, Inc.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 2, 2017**

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

Members: Tom and Denise Donovan, Trish Ramsay

**Secretary's Report:**

After discussion and review, minutes (with minor corrections) were unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Frank distributed the treasurer's report and summarized the financial status of BOS. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Membership Report:**

Bob reported BOS has approximately half the members from several years ago. Frank suggested that each board member try to get five new members. Then there was a discussion about starting a member committee. Bob wanted people outside BOS to serve on the committee. Trish recommended joining Nextdoor Bow Town to spread the word about BOS. Harry asked Bob to send letter out to members asking to enlist others to join. Trish will post info on BOS on the Nextdoor Bow Town website.

**Stewardship Report:**

Ken met with Bryan Westover, Town of Bow Assistant Planner, to discuss Person property land dispute. Town of Bow position is that, unless proved different, the property in question is town land. Not much interest in land from developers yet. Ken suggested BOS avoid taking any action at this time. Bob thought we should, when the time comes, ask the new owners about putting the land under a conservation easement.

**Public Relations Report:**

Concerning the new BOS website under construction, Martin would like to include a definition of a conservation easement. Harry noticed that meeting minutes were missing the last several months. He also wanted to link conservation areas listed with the respective trail maps. Town of Bow has launched a new website. Hilary and Harry met with Sandy Crystall about coordination between BOS and the Conservation Commission. Visitors to the website should be directed to the BOS website and trail maps. Hilary made a spreadsheet listing Bow conservation properties with descriptions. Harry wanted a trail map of Walker Forest. Trish would like maps to have

mileage, walking time, and level of challenge. Martin wanted picture of properties for the new website. Martin is also looking for information to include in the spring /summer Newsletter. Trish suggested we submit articles on open spaces to Bow Times. Articles for the paper are due by the first of the month.

#### **Trail Report:**

Dan Freeman (Parks and Recreation) wanted to build a trail behind the ball fields on Albin Road. Hilary felt that there is too much grade there. A snowmobile trail already exists in the area. Hilary attended the Saving Special Places Conference. Workshops included information about easement language and trail/stewardship volunteers. Hilary started a BOS subcommittee called Trails Committee. The first project for this newly-formed committee is creating a solution for the wet section on Robertson Trail in Knox Forest. Hilary also met with the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club.

#### **New Business:**

New plaque on Great Hill was damaged by a rock and will need new Plexiglas. Someone also tried to remove a trail junction sign but spikes held it in place. Another sign was also pulled out of the ground in Hammond Forest. Bob will need a new sign for Great Hill. Martin received a \$300 donation from Eversource.

#### **Next BOS Meeting:**

The next meeting is June 6, 2017 (7:00 p.m.) at the Baker Free Library. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.