

Bow Open Spaces
Final Minutes, Zoom meeting
February 2, 2021

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Martin Murray, Eric Thum, Frank Boucher, Bob Lux. Absent: Ken Demain, Marc Ferland

Members: Beth Lux, Marilee Nihan

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report was approved and accepted with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was approved and accepted. Frank noted that the two CD's mature in March and May. Frank will look into options for them. Discrepancy from last month's membership report and Frank's report was thought to be due to miscellaneous matching contributions. BOS is in good shape financially.

The Secretary of State report is filed every 5 years as a nonprofit. The state will email the report to Bob who will forward it to Frank for payment (\$75). The report is about a month late at this time.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bob's presented two reports:

One, a list of "Active Member Dues and Contributions, Feb 1, 2020 through Feb. 1, 2021" listed:

- 40 regular members
- 15 supporting members
- 27 contributing members

Total: 82 members, total dues collected: \$5345

The other, "Current Year Member Dues and Contributions, July 1, 2020 through February 1, 2021" listed:

- 32 regular members
- 12 supporting members
- 20 contributing members

Total: 64 members, total dues collected: \$4225

Conclusion: "People appreciate the trails". Trails have driven membership this past year due to Covid. Next year, BOS should make a category with a higher contributing amount. PayPal was utilized considerably in sending contributions.

STEWARDSHIP: Eric presented his Excel spreadsheet showing easement information, property listings, size, tax map blocks and monitoring. Eric started the Excel data from 2017 to present. Ken's paper records precede 2017. 1965 acres are in conservation easement currently. As a percentage, we were unable to state the percentage of Bow that is in conservation (although we once knew and presumably is in meeting notes). Martin raised the question of BOS reporting to the Select board on the Hammond NP stewardship. Eric submitted a 2020 report of improvements, eg, made & signed the Life Tr. The report will be added to the Hammond property page on the BOS website.

Again, the need for a proper survey of the Patrick Richardson easement was raised. Ron K said years ago that he could not do this. He cannot set corners and make boundaries. The required transept survey will be more costly. Bob Dawkins pointed out that the Richardsons may have to pay for this survey if the town will not. This was not handled properly initially. It is not the financial obligation of BOS. Eric will contact Sandy Crystall for pursuit of funding. Finally, Eric says there is much easement work to do in the spring.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Martin sent a test newsletter today to board members. He's satisfied that he can utilize Mail Chimp vs Constant Contact and at virtually no cost. He will transition permanently in the spring. There may be some material that may be lost in CC archives. It may be possible to put archived material on a flash drive, pdf file or something similar. Martin will investigate. He will check with the trail committee re any material that might be lost in a change to MC. He is about ready to send the actual winter newsletter. MC should be a money saving move for BOS.

TRAILS: Marc Ferland was absent. Harry reported that the trails he has seen look great. Bob reported an unauthorized bypass in Nottingcook on Glacial Erratic Tr. where walkers cut around a section "they don't like". Dropping brush/logs etc across such bypasses is the only possible solution. One might hope this will be effective.

Eric spoke of Eastman Tr. taking a sharp left in one particular place that some walkers didn't notice. They would benefit from an arrow, double blaze or other remedy. Bob suggests that if a turn is likely to be missed, put logs and/or brush on the false lead, redirecting walkers to the real trail.

ADDITIONAL:

From Marilee Nihan, member attendee: She stressed how much she enjoys the trails. She points out that on the back side of the new Hamilton Court (HC) development is an easement that backs to Hammond NP. She asks if there is a plan to build a trail along a corridor by Brown Hill Rd. thru the HC conserved land and onto Hammond NP. BOS would need to walk the area in good weather to assess and decide through the trails committee what is best for utilizing it. Harry said he could contact Dave Stack seeing if a conservation easement will be created.

Martin new easement finalized: BOS is not yet a steward of Pushee-Chadwick. It has been donated to the town but an easement is not finalized.

HNP, owned by the town, has a "funky" conservation easement also controlled by the town. This is not a proper arrangement, generated in the 'days of control'. Bob states this needs be changed by contemporary selectmen.

Finally, Bob noted BOS should not sign a conservation easement with the town for Crescent Dr. until we have a stewardship donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. The next meeting is March 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces, Inc.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT