

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Zoom meeting

May 4, 2021

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: the report was reviewed and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: the report was reviewed and accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Current Year Member Dues and Contributions (no change), July 1 to May 4:

Regular members	48	\$1310
Supporting	16	\$1050
Contributing	26	\$2475

a new record of 90 paid members within 1 year with \$5520 total dues (as well as a 91st member just today)

Active Year, May 1 to May 1:

Regular	53	\$1450
Supporting	17	\$1125
Contributing	27	\$2575

a total of 97 active members.

Bob brought up the fact that new member Gale Sweeney had expressed a desire to be on the Board (and perhaps could help Eric with stewardship).

That there is a lot of community support was noted. The number and variety of trails drive membership. We are close to hitting a new goal of 100 members. There are twelve membership renewals pending as

well. Bob noted the need to have board members who can work well together, and even considering a background check for new ones.

Marc again brought up company 100% matches which, however, are contributed anonymously and not attributable to individuals. He also brought up consideration of raising the membership fee at some point.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric noted he attended the Conservation Commission Committee Zoom meeting on April 12 to discuss the survey of the Patrick Richardson easement. Sandy Crystall asked for an estimate of the cost. There is no idea what it might be. Various surveyors' names were mentioned and their availability explored. Bob Dawkins provided Eric with contact info of surveyor Jacques Belanger, a Dunbarton resident.

Eric signed up for the training on conservation easement monitoring Zoom on May 25. Bob Dawkins noted that there is a need for a stewardship committee to handle the large amount of work called for.

Eric, Ken Demain and Bob Lux walked a portion of the Johnson Rd TF boundary from Morgan Dr. to the end of Dicandra Dr. on April 15. Blazes and corners (pipes) were intact except for the second to last corner before Dicandra Dr. which had been noted before by Ron K and Bob & Ken on a previous visit. This has been currently determined as "not findable" and needs a solution. From Dicandra down to I-93 is ok and blazes have been refreshed by Bob.

Harry pointed out that there is an illegal hunter's stand right on Life Trail about halfway along in Hammond.

Ron returned the large Webelos sign at Walker that had been leaning against a tree over the winter. Eric, Mark and Jim Jensen rerouted a wet area at Webelos. The need for adding arrows to clarify the changes was mentioned. As it stands, the diversions are not clearly indicated. Harry removed a large blowdown with a chain saw on Webelos Trail as well.

The Hammond Nature Preserve parking sign on Dunbarton Center Rd. has been returned to its place but is shorter (using original post) after having been damaged last winter. The question is if obscured from view was raised.

Bob Dawkins had some proposed changes (eg, the town's having removed a binding arbitration clause) to the easement (some 5 ac) at the end of Crescent Dr. This still needs finalizing, then the town signs it, then Harry, then it is recorded with the registry and the original sent to Harry and then to the secretary to be added to BOS permanent archives. The backup easement holder defaults to Five Rivers. Bob notes that this particular easement is taking "forever". He pointed out that the Nottingcook easement finalization took seven to eight years.

Ken is still waiting for a reply (email and or phone) as to where the "no motorized wheeled vehicles" signs may be.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin was absent.

TRAILS REPORT: Marc commented on the three trails days scheduled for the spring: (1) with URI on 4/19 which cancelled, presumably due to covid considerations; (2) on 4/24 with the Scouts in School Forest. Mark emptied an old, bottomless but full trash can on Robertson Tr.; (3) Saturday, May 1, a "local" trail day (work on "whatever's closest"). Mark brought up work needed on replacing an old bridge on Pond Tr. entering School Forest. Mark is adding non-skid (chicken wire) to slippery surfaces on the footbridges on the Esker Trail.

There was discussion on improving the wet area on Robertson Trail by rerouting it or obtaining a permit to fill it in which involves hauling stone etc

The next trails committee meeting is on June 2.

Wrap up:

It was decided that BOS would hold its potluck June meeting in the picnic area at Hammond NP on 6/1 with a rain date of 6/8. It was decided to invite the trails committee as well.

Finally, Bob Dawkins brought up the election of officers at the June meeting. He was president for four yrs, Bob Lux two years and Harry six years.

Changing presidents is imperative for the health of the organization. We need to think about this as well as fill in the VP position, training for two years to then assume the presidential position. At the June meeting, we will vote on officers and renew Harry's board of directors' position expiring in 2021.

Bob additionally pointed out that BOS board should do some 'due diligence' before blithely accepting ("grabbing any body") new board members. This is particularly important with non-profits. Bob Lux pointed out the utility of a screening interview to assure any new appointee optimally fills in.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces