

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

November 2, 2021

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Martin Murray, Marc Ferland, Bob Lux; Absent: Frank Boucher, Ken Demain; Members: Jim Jensen, Beth Lux, Sandy Crystall, Tim Frazier (Hamilton Hills) by Zoom

SECRETARY'S REPORT: the September report was reviewed and accepted with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: there was no report, the treasurer was absent.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: So far 25 members paid (31 last yr at this time), \$1625 in contributions and \$1000 from the NH Charitable foundation in July, with no terms, no documentation. \$150 from Century 21 regarding a property sale. Paid members are bit behind a year ago. 83 now vs nearly a 100 last year at same time (some discrepancy due to when they pay their dues) because of pandemic motivation. Bob will be reminding members, sending out renewal notices quarterly. Membership promoting: town mtgs and polls have not worked with increasing interest in BOS. Craft fairs are a possibility, Sandy mentioned "Trunk or Treat". A library display was brought up as we have done in the past. BOS will check with the library. There is also Facebook promotion via the BOS site.

Tim Fraser brought up the need for publicity at less-used trail heads. Bob said he has a laminated trail sign that suits and will work toward that end.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric visited the Patrick Richardson easement and walked the perimeter without finding any signs other than along the adjacent property, recently marked for potential sale. He also put NCF maps at trail heads. He tried to contact the surveyor, with last name of Bellanger. Bob had a more promising possibility and will get back to Eric.

The Woodhill-Hooksett kiosk, at the Bow Bog Rd. end, is under repair for a new roof.

Eric found two stewardship walk volunteers, Carol Niegisch and Cale Sweeny and maybe Tim Frazier.

Finally Eric mentioned that Five Rivers Conservation Trust has 30-40 volunteers wondering how they get volunteers, record data etc. Annotating the Ron Klemarczyk forest-type map, adding gps corners, taking photos when helpful have been used in the past along with Ken's easement walk reporting form

Bob brought up need to have BOS records in a secure central place, eg, a safe deposit box at a bank such as Merrimack County SB. Eg, original conservation easement. A DropBox for BOS is another possibility.

He pointed out there was no stewardship donation for the Crescent Lane easement. Sandy replied that funding is a bit different. In some towns, an organization such as BOS is part of the Conservation Committee.

The wet lands area for the Robertson Trail was covered at a CC mtg on Nov. 1. Sandy wants a certified wetlands scientist to do the delineation toward permitting. The CC voted to pay for the delineation: map, report and eventual application. The delineation will be done in the next week per Sandy. This has been a nearly year long issue in 2021: find design, get permit, install optimal solution. Bob brought up bog bridges. Sandy was concerned about presence of fat-tire trail bikes and snow mobilers. Sandy seemed more inclined to have a fill solution. Eric brought up fact that there is a company that provides trail advice.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Fall new's letter went out 10/3 with 50% opening. It was posted to Face Book on Oct 3 and 5 with 91 "engagements". Story Walk second story "Becoming a Good Creature" is up at the time of this meeting. These provide exposure for BOS. A "Creature Crawl" will end it on 11/20.

Kids bring stuffed animals, walk the trail and read the messages. New BOS fees discussed in September are posted on the web site. Re the BOS web site: March, April, May, June and September meeting notes are missing. The secretary will look into it.

The feasibility of using Great Hill for a story book walk was brought up by Bob.

Vandalism of cairns on Great Hill and invasive vegetation at Turee Pond were brought up.

A Five Rivers advertising sign seen at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord was brought up by Eric - something visible, yet minimal. Posting advertising info in various places in town would likely expand interest.

TRAILS REPORT: F&G “Caution Signs” were brought up. Dave Stack wondered if they should be put on trail heads. Harry said he’d gotten a lot of negative feedback on the proposed posting of these signs. It was agreed that posting up-to-date hunting season dates is extremely important. Martin says that the current kiosk QR code takes one to the appropriate page. Harry pointed out that there is a hunter’s stand on the Life Trail at Hammond.

WRAP UP:

Tatum (a Bow HS senior) wanted to build a bridge over the snow mobile trail behind the elementary school for use of the cross-country team. There may be a new fire access road to the elementary school which would negate this (and would require a wetland permit). An alternative project for him could be remaking a short trail to the old foundation noted by prominent sign on the Eagle Trail. Marc will pursue this. Keeping track of the location of invasive species is also important to note and remove as able.

Jim Jensen wants to legalize an officially unnamed (“pandemic”) rogue trail (c. 0.8 mi) in Walker TF at the Hampshire Hills end and will submit a proposal (including gpx file) to the town thru Sandy and the Conservation Committee. The use of historical names for trails or natural features was brought up: eg, how did Walker TF get its name? (no one knew at the meeting).

Sandy commented on the Natural Resources Inventory. On Wednesday the 17th, there will be a presentation at the Old Town Hall at 7pm. Any/all conservation land with easement in Bow is listed in the NRI. In the future, the NRI will be available on line. Harry mentioned a tract of land on Branch Londonderry Turnpike that was once for sale. It would be nice if the town owned it since it links to other town-owned land. Bob mentioned

that the Alexander Slocums in S. Bow had once considered 100 ac of easement forest but there was too much financial disadvantage for feasibility at the time. The idea that landowners who are planning to sell should notify the town for possible mutual advantage was brought up by Sandy. Bob tried similarly years ago with the sizable properties of the Woodbury and Ordway families, at least perhaps planting a seed.

Eric brought up the Chadwick-Pushee land donation, the property at the end of Hamilton Court, south of Sundance Lane and at the end of Hammond NP. Sandy described it as being a landlocked 25 acres, town of Bow owned, Hamilton Ct. open space. The CC voted to support a warrant article to make it town forest but more so an easement.

Finally, Harry asked about Jim Jensen's above proposal. Sandy wants to see the gpx. So this remained pending.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Next month's meeting is Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces