

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

December 7, 2021

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Martin Murray, Marc Ferland, Frank Boucher, Ken Demain, Bob Lux. Members: Sandy Crystall; by Zoom, Jim Jenkins, Tim O'Donovan

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Read and accepted with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read and accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bob reports we are doing "really well".

1. Actual (12/8/20 to 12/7/21) Membership Dues & Contributions:

- total regular \$1605
- total supporting \$1085
- total contributing \$3170
- total Summit Society \$750
- TOTAL OF \$6610

At this time, we have \$3455 in paid dues, 46 members paying. Last year at this time, we had \$1500 less in paid dues from 34 members.

We got a \$1000 check from Bob Chadwick as Summit Society dues and contribution.

2. Current Year (7/1 to 12/7/21) Membership Dues & Contributions)

- total regular \$650
- total supporting \$310

- total contributing \$1745
- total Summit Society \$750
- total contributions \$2130
- TOTAL OF \$5585

We have \$3115 more in membership dues than last year and contributions of \$1605 more than last year.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric reported he has five people for stewardship walks: Tim Frazier, Cale Sweeney, Carol Niegisch, Paul & Ranah Shagoury plus Ken & Bob. He'll go thru the basics of easement waking after the holidays. Sandy is also willing to help. Also discussion about what is left of hunting season in so far as any walks and safety are concerned. Alison, a contact at Five Rivers, left, so Eric will now try to contact Liz for info on how they handle stewardship matters. Also the Frankestown Land Trust group per Sandy may have good input.

Cherry Hill homes proposes to build 21 houses adjacent to the Patrick Richardson easement. We are still seeking a survey/surveyor for the easement. This development is expected to make a donation of 25 acres of open space for Bow. Whether this land stays in a home owners' association or goes to town of Bow needs research. Stone Sled easement was brought up as to who has the easement. It was confirmed that it is a BOS easement.

PUBLICITY REPORT: Story walks were concluded on 11/20. They were well-received. BOS received acknowledgement. There was theft on the first walk - some 6 signs were taken, later found at the brush dump per Martin. Great Hill might be another place but that would be up to the library. Marc noted he 'brushed' the trails where the Story walks took place. Martin is working on a generic BOS promotional flyer. He is looking for additions to the town report publication on BOS. The question of how many miles of town trails was brought up by Ken. Harry has the number but

didn't know off-hand. Also Martin is looking for winter news letter contributions.

TRAILS REPORT: Marc says trail activity is quiet. There's not much going on but existence of blowdowns was brought up by Harry on various trails: White Pine, Single Circuit, and Boulder especially. That there has been leaf blowing was brought up. School forest trails are cleaned of leaves. Robinson, too, and maybe Single Circuit per Harry. That this has nothing to do with BOS efforts was noted. The protective benefit of leaving leaves on the trails was brought up by Sandy.

Additional from Sandy: she got the report from the wetlands scientist re the wet area on Robertson. She has yet to review it in seeking a permit process and a best design solution. Eric points out that there are trail design experts. SPNF was brought up by Eric for a source of trail expertise.

Chadwick-Pushee is fairly steep-sloped so getting a conservation easement is optimal per Sandy. The select board gave a lukewarm response as it might be considered loss of "real estate portfolio acreage". It is landlocked and steep so believed to be of not much utility.

American Trails Organization has regular webinars for all sorts of useful trail-related issues. Sandy can provide links to ATO.

How many acres are in conservation easement in Bow was asked but not recollected by those present. Frankestown is proactive in seeking land that might come on the market for sale. Having a relationship with land owners can be valuable as was brought up at the last meeting. Sandy mentioned deed restrictions (ie, conservation easements) as part of transaction to ensure a conservation purpose. Bob mentioned there is an education gap regarding what easements are and what they accomplish. He also mentioned inscripting something like

“granting the town of Bow my land and, more so, the easement restrictions that came with it”. Finally, Eric asked about Sandy’s Natural Resources Inventory and where it may be found online. Online access is still pending at this time.

WRAP UP:

Harry mentioned that a bridge was built over the brook by Bow elementary school despite information/lack of future applicability/ recommendations to the contrary due to the likelihood of fire road access construction. Sandy talked about the need to ‘get things right’ regarding various pet projects around the town, ie, small personal trails, this bridge. The tenuous situation of the Smokey-Ogden-Nesbitt prospective land sale was also briefly mentioned.

Harry mentioned that BOS has a what-we-do display in the library lobby put up by Eric. On Zoom, Tim O’Donovan said kudos to Bob Dawkins for all his trail work in Nottingcook. Finally, Bob brought up a (GHM) land trust insurance policy that would cover accidents/incidents/properties associated with BOS work/ use on easement properties and stated that BOS should look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Next month’s meeting is Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces