

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library
January 4, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins (by Zoom), Eric Thum, Martin Murray, Marc Ferland, Frank Boucher, Bob Lux. Absent: Ken Demain; Members: Jim Jensen

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: For the current (2021) year: \$4150 received in dues, \$1015 more than last year (58 paid dues members now, 57 last year at the same time), almost all of that in increased contributions. Thirteen people have not paid dues yet this year and this is of concern in that they may not despite three emails from Bob. He will send one final email at the end of January before dropping them off the membership list. Martin offered to go directly to them with a more creative approach and will work with Bob on this.

There are 94 active members (paid dues between Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2021) totaling \$5965. Last year there were 83 active members for the same period. There is \$1270 more in dues in 2021.

Bob reports that membership is good other than the concern about the thirteen non-renewals. He points out that there is a good number of members who don't live in town. Most noteworthy, four to five years ago, BOS membership was struggling to get to 50.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric reported on a stewardship monitoring team of eight members and their getting together and working on Crescent Drive boundaries learning map and compass familiarity. He's planning on attending Saving Special Places April 1, 2 for stewardship ideas. BOS has 1965 acres in conservation easement, plus some additional acreage in F&G etc. We have 21 miles of trails. Eric still has not been able to speak with anyone at Five Rivers as the person sought left the organization - so this is up in the air for now.

Harry reported thru Sandy Crystall that the select board voted 3-2 to support a conservation easement on the landlocked Chadwick-Pushee land. We could not conclude if it has been surveyed and will check with Sandy. We will also seek a stewardship donation for that land. Bob stressed the need to have a clear presentation at town meeting to ensure support. Responsibility to make a presentation at town meeting would be the Conservation Commission's according to Bob. BOS could add to it. Eric will contact Sandy re these questions.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin reported on various public relations/budget expenses. The below is a copy/paste from him:

BOS Web Costs, etc:

- Hostgator (Site host) \$6.95/mo billed every 3 years = ~\$250.00. Last billed 12.25.2019.
- HostGator Backup. ~ end of December: \$32.95/yr (December)
- Hover (Domain) - \$15.99/yr (May 1st)
- Wordpress (Mapping domain) - \$13.00/yr (March 31)
- Web work - Concord-based contractor: \$75/hour. (as necessary)
- Mail Chimp is free now (vs the old Constant Contact)

Martin got an email from a BMS teacher with a student message. There is part of a program named "Destination Imagination" which wants a service learning challenge and seeks BOS partnership regarding which trails they might use to make a story walk with the town. The importance of contacting the Bow library was brought up as the story walk concept is theirs and coordination makes sense. Harry pointed out that the middle or elementary school made an old story walk version featuring trees years back. The eight to nine stands are still in place.

Eric asked about putting informative posters (such as Five Rivers') at trail heads with a membership invitation and contact numbers to put on utility poles. Harry raised the issue of grant writers to better raise funds, ie, BOS advertising for a grant writer. The need for specific information was raised

by Martin. The Moose plate fund (LCIP related was asked?) for purchase of land was brought up. Bob and Nancy Rhinehardt wrote a grant proposal years ago for BOS purchase of land. Harry brought up the Brian Persson land abutting Walker as well as land on Branch Londonderry Tpk East but this appears to have been sold to a Carl Gould who is building a house there. Charitable donations for high-income earners was raised by Bob.

TRAILS REPORT: Again Mark says trail activity isn't much. Mark & Harry cleaned a large tree near the Boulder - Mossy junction. Mark hasn't seen many blowdowns on his bike excursions. Bob noted several in Nottingcook on Woodbury Lookout, Steerbrook Gorge and Cascade Brook trails. There will be a trails committee meeting next week.

WRAP UP:

Jim Jensen spoke about the Rogue or Pandemic Trail (builders unknown) in Walker TF cutting out the loop Sandy wanted removed before Conservation Committee approval. The trail is mixed in its appeal having scattered slash areas for removal of disease trees.

Harry mentioned again about hunting stands that have apparently been abandoned. The one on the Life Trail was brought up again. The tree, right by the trail and not far from the field, is growing over the large spikes driven into it. Bob D. noted calling F&G is needed as written landowner permission is required.

Martin made a last appeal for winter newsletter contributions.

Finally, the gravel pit was brought up. It was confirmed that this pit was purchased by the town from town conservation funds and by bond issue in the late 90s.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. Next month's meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary, Bow Open Spaces