

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library
February 1, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Marc Ferland, Eric Thum, Bob Lux, Frank Boucher; Absent: Martin Murray, Ken Demain; Member: Beth Lux; Zoom: Rick Silverberg, Tom O'Donovan.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: In current membership, there are 30 regular, 7 supporting, 20 contributing and 3 Summit Society, for sixty paid members (down from 66 a year ago), totaling \$4210 in dues and \$2160 donations. Last year's membership income totaled \$3645. There are seven new members so far, but a net loss of 6 since the 13 members noted at last month's meeting did not renew despite numerous emails. Bob sent a final one today. In the group with dues due in the 1st quarter of this calendar year, there are 16 who have not responded yet to Bob's email.

Active members (paid between 2/1 last year and 1/31): 89 paid up right now versus 84 last year. Collected \$2540 in dues by checks and \$2680 by PayPal totaling \$5220.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric contacted Fieldstone Land Group who may provide an estimate on the Patrick Richardson easement. He and Bob did an easement monitor at Nottingcook along the south, southeast and east portions. They could not find the final corner and will try from Merrill Crossing next time. There were no encroachments. A new trail system made by Alex Slocum was noted. Eric wrote Sandy Crystall re Chadwick-Pushee lot and the need to present it at town meeting next month and ask for a stewardship donation. Eric believes the survey has been done. Bob said it needs to be blazed before an easement is signed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Martin was absent. Through Harry, he said he's still seeking winter newsletter input.

TRAILS REPORT: The downed trees were cleaned up by Eric & Harry. The Pandemic Trail (laid out by bikers) was discussed again. It was difficult to find, in the snow, where Sandy wanted the trail to go. Rick Silverburg gave a fairly detailed account of attempts to pinpoint the trail. Sandy was not present for input. The Conservation Committee is looking for a much shorter trail per Mark. With parts cut out, the trail is about 0.6 mi. The maximum length trail that could be made is about 1.5 mi according to Mark. Jim (not present) wants to continue with the original proposal. Mark points out the evolution from unofficial to official trail. A compromise of walking versus biking needs was brought up. Something between 0.6 and 1.5 mi seems doable. Mark will continue with Jim - and maybe flag it on snow shoes - or in the springtime for optimal accuracy.

Harry brought up the tree stand issue. He'd heard from Dave Stack who spoke with Sgt. Pushee at NH F&G who recommended putting notices on stands in August with volunteers. We could only come up with two stands: one on Life Trail in Hammond and Eric said one on the Stone Sled easement.

WRAP UP:

Harry asked Rick Silverberg about grant proposals for conservation. Rick brought up various examples from his personal experience in and around Tilton. Harry had the Smokey-Ogden-Nesbitt property off Bow Bog & Allen in mind which raised the question of how to fund such lands for conservation protection. Tax credits are available from the Community Development Finance Authority. The town could apply to get a grant for tax credits. A group of people from the town could work with CDFA in an annual round of grants, fill out the proposal, apply, hopefully get a grant award for a certain number of tax credit dollars. Tax credits and tax deductions were discussed, mostly between Bob Dawkins, Richard Silverberg and Frank Boucher. Credits are applied against a business profits/enterprise tax. BOS might find Bow investors who could make a pledge toward the CDFA. MCSB or Grappone were brought up as primary candidates to reduce their business enterprise tax. It is feasible to make donations to the CDFA for credits to use against the business enterprise tax and also apply the full amount donated to the fed'l tax return.

CDFA's cap this year is five million dollars credit for which there is considerable competition. Friends of the Sunapee trail and Friends of the Merrimack County Greenway were brought up by Rick as examples he is familiar with. Proposals are due in the CDFA instance by mid-February. There also is the NH Charitable Foundation and LCHIP with grants in the \$65-85,000 range. Rick said it behooves the cause to prepare a checklist: where is the parcel, how big is it, what is its appraised value, how would the town own it and what would be its intended use. For LCHIP, is there wildlife or plant life that is on a list of the state's endangered species? Harry also brought up the Person property along Branch Londonderry East. In other instances, another complication might be that part of the land is for sale and part is a donation. It's a complicated process calling for expertise.

Contacting the broker for the Smokey-Ogden-Nesbitt property would be a first step in applying the above. The Conservation Committee or even BOS could undertake this challenge. Harry will contact the broker and perhaps Linda Millman. An appraisal might be required depending on the funding source. Tom O'Donovan brought up DES as another funding source.

Finally Eric brought up the idea of having the Trails and BOS meeting back to back/ simultaneously on the same night without much enthusiasm from those present, it being too long a meeting. There are reasons for both approaches. Harry said he would bring it up with the trails group.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Next month's meeting is Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces