

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

May 3, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Martin Murray, Marc Ferland, Frank Boucher, Bob Lux; Absent Ken Demain; Members: BCC chair Sandy Crystal, Beth Lux, Jim Jensen, Dave Laflamme, Ian Hanson, Brian Harjula

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The April minutes were approved with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was accepted and approved. Frank reported little change over the two previous months. The checking account has some \$24,000 plus two CDs "not earning much but not losing either". Donated land value/donations and membership and contributions comprise assets. Contributions are strong and membership dues have held up. Expenses have not been much so far this year. Our balance has continued to grow with \$6680 in revenue and \$1312 in expenses. The balance has grown by nearly \$5400.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: "Doing OK" Bob sums. For the fiscal year: 76 current members for \$5310 in membership revenue, \$2165 in donations for a total of \$7475 in income. Last year at this time there were 89 members so we are down 13. From the period Jan 1- June 30 fewer are renewing. In the period July to December, the bulk renewed. Bob will keep pursuing past members about renewal.

Active membership (May 1st last year to April this year) is 83 vs 95 last year as likely pandemic reflection but still way up over what we had for many years.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric is still trying to contact surveyor Michael Ploof to get a proposal for the Patrick Richardson easement on Page Rd.

On the 28th, Bob Lux, Sue Jenkins and Eric walked the boundary of Nottingcook off Hope Lane and Peaslee. The mountain bike path on town property was brought up. Eric put up a sign noting that the MTB trail was unauthorized.

Sandy, Bob Dawkins, Harry and Eric checked the mountain bike jump. Those responsible dug a hole for soil for the jump near the wetland and made a trench/culvert in the wetland. Finding who did this would be useful. However, DPW will dismantle it per Sandy.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Martin says the newsletter was issued on April 20th to more than 200 recipients (opened by 56%) and also posted to FaceBook. As usual he is looking for content. He is working on a Bow Times column with a BOS pitch. He has two outside requests: (1) Bow Young at Heart which would like to have BOS give a presentation at the Old Town Hall (2nd and 4th Wednesdays). Bob volunteered Eric and himself for a slide show presentation. (2) A communication from a parent of a high school student looking for work as community service. Marc will contact that parent for trail work possibilities.

Dave Laflamme spoke on a proposed land donation to troop 75 by a former member offering an undeveloped island (c.1.4 ac) to the troop located in the Merrimack River (above Garvins Falls) in Concord for camping and fishing use. The troop is willing to accept the donation. Bob says that BOS could take ownership and then do a lease/use agreement with terms toward conservation protection. BOS will need to create guidelines to consider a relationship.

BOS could accept the agreement on Troop 75's behalf or, alternatively, the troop could establish its own nonprofit. Frank says there may also be a process at the scout national level that could be explored - ie, there are various options to explore. Dave will keep exploring.

He also brought up the upcoming orienteering meet in Nottingcook (as part of a "camporee") for the scouts in May.

TRAILS REPORT: Harry points out that Nottingcook trails are in good shape. Marc did some solo ("I got restless") bridge work on Robinson's Crest trail in wet areas, seeking to minimize impact with an approximately 12" wide footing. Sandy points out places where trails (or sections of them) may be too narrow, eg, with snowshoe users - however it was noted that the ground is usually frozen then, offering more latitude. Marc also brought up the question of a yearly budget figure for trail maintenance. Harry thought we had one of \$1500 previously.

Kiosk maintenance and map supply was brought up. Eric points out that he supplies the Nottingcook kiosk, Eric is responsible for overseeing the others. National Trail Day benefit was brought up as a source for trail upkeep.

The tree stand on Life Trail (right next to the trail with metal spikes as hazard to bikers) at Hammond was marked with an orange ribbon by Jim Jensen. There is a need to post a sign stating that this stand must be removed within a time frame and should be done by the town. Marc will check with Dave Stack about a 90 day notice prior to removal. It was also noted that there is no sign upon arriving in the Hammond field directing the way to go for the Life Tr. trailhead. The past BOS Adopt-a-Trial system was also brought up. QR codes for map access are used on kiosks too. Also, users taking a map trails photo at the kiosk will reduce the use of paper map consumption.

Sandy reported on wetland delineation and permitting for the Robertson Tr. wet area. She got an estimate for the work which would need DPW assistance, eg, material moving from Hooksett and into the woods (many tons): a 160' wetland crossing, 10' wide. She spoke with Tim Sweeney for an estimate using "burrito wrap" in three 6" thick layers of different rock types: "many tons coming in a mile" regarding getting materials to the work site. She will await feedback from Tim.

Brian brought up utilizing modular pieces for the bridge construction proposed for Robertson. He'd made a bridge 120' long, 8' wide in modules. Sandy says it needs be 10' wide since it is a snowmobile trail. His footbridge would be set off, away from the stone filling. Sandy says that is a bigger footprint which is an issue in three seasons. Structures also require maintenance. This trail project is an ongoing process. Sandy will finalize and submit a plan. Harry points out that Concord has done similar work on its West End Trail at the Rte 89 end.

The revised hiking trail thru Walker will be reviewed by the Conservation Committee and will be named the Warner Trail or perhaps some geologic name.

Finally, the mowing of the field at Hammond was brought up by Sandy. She suggested doing it in two year rotations but BOS does not have an easement on it. She wants to have half mowed one year and half the other. She will contact Dave Stack to see who is mowing it.

WRAP UP: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Next month's picnic meeting is Tuesday, June 7, 2022 (rain date June 8) at Hammond Nature Preserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
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