

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

November 7, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Martin Murray, Eric Thum, Frank Boucher, Bob Lux; **Absent:** Marc Ferland, Ken Demain.
Members: Tom O'Donovan, Rick Silverberg, Sandy Crystall, Jim Jensen, Brian Harjula

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The September minutes were approved and accepted with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was approved and accepted. Frank says BOS is in "solid financial position" providing details. He is still trying to start an account at Charles Schwab or Fidelity for short term treasuries which has been difficult for a variety of reasons.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Currently (through October 31st), there is \$1655 in paid membership dues, which represents 22 members. Last year, there was \$1830 to date from 28 members.

The major decrease in charitable contributions is due to a prior year \$1000 contribution from the NH Charitable Fund.

Regarding active members (those whose dues are not expired): \$5815 active dues from 82 people versus \$5075 the prior year, thus more dues money this year, but 92 contributing from the year before.

Bob will send out a second notice renewals to the first half of the year membership next week and give them 6 weeks to send in dues. He hopes to 2022-23 membership will be as good as 2021-22. Marketing for new members is paramount.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric is still waiting for a survey estimate for the Patrick Richardson easement as also mentioned in October notes. Bob stresses the need to be a bit forceful. Eric is looking for volunteers for the Crescent Drive easement next week.

The destruction of the Pine Crest, Pepin/Rollins Drives area beaver dam, trapping of the two beavers and subsequent draining of the pond (on town land) was discussed in some detail. However this land is not under BOS easement. This Wednesday night, November 9, the select board will address the communication problem and resultant action that has led to a great deal of protest from town residents.

Eric has spent some three hours helping Luke Insana on his senior community project improving Glacial Erratic Trail.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Martin is working to get the fall news letter out this month and looking for contributions. Tom says we should add a story talking about increasing concerns about the acquisition pace of land in Bow for development. BOS is looking for approaches and would welcome citizens who want to pitch in and help find solutions for land preservation.

Martin will take some photos of easement walkers at Crescent Drive next week. He thinks he's found a designer for a BOS annual report. He also wants to create a snapshot of BOS financials, sources of revenue and membership and will work with Bob and Frank.

He brought BOS holiday cards for board members to send out to members around Thanksgiving.

TRAILS REPORT: Marc was absent but sent a list of projects:

Easy level:

— Currently there is a bush wack to the cellar hole (from the sign on Eagle Trail). There has been a faint trail head opposite the sign but the path is overgrown.

— Clean out the area around the kiosk on Woodhill-Hooksett Road for Nottingcook Forest

— Walk all trails with clippers, pruning growth that has grown onto the trail. Also picking up blowdown debris and moving it off the trails.

Medium level:

— Install chicken wire on 4 bridges on Nottingcok trails. Mark has a map showing where these bridges are but it was not in the notes provided tonight.

— Post a new Rookery sign at the 'rogue' Rookery trailhead.

— Replace the unsteady bridge where Pond Trail and Town Forest Trails meet.

Hard:

— Install a stone bridge on Robinson Crest Trail near where another board bridge was put this past spring.

Jim Jensen is still waiting for forest trail signs. The scouts could dig posts where needed. Jim will contact them. The Warner Trail is coming along he reports. Now one can't even see the old trail. He has posted a notification of removal of the tree stand tree on Life Trail within 30 days from November 9. The bridge on Eagle Trail near the junction with Hemlock Trail needs repair of broken boards.

Sandy gave an update on Robertson Trail. She is putting the permit application together with some changes. It is getting close to completion - various approvals are in order, with a slightly different width footprint. The work will be done by people Ron Klemarczyk knows. Sandy mentions Chuck Rose, a logger with his crew. It will be made of two different layers of rock with three culverts Sandy reports. The Conservation Commission would pay for this and/or obtain other funds. The work hopefully will get done next year.

WRAP UP:

1. Bob wants to create a new directorship for land acquisition with the title Land Conservation Director. For the time being, he will have two separate directorship positions, this new one and membership. A motion to this end with Bob Dawkins as the first director was made and passed. Bob notes land funding will be crucial for grant processes from various sources in the future. There was mention of the Brian Westover property, approximately 74 acres, for future easement potential.

2. Both Bob and Eric believe Bow Open Spaces needs renaming. How to accomplish this is something we need to think about. We would not have to change the legal corporate name. It might read something like ???? Conservation Land Trust. Removing the name Bow is presented as paramount so as not to appear aligned with the town. Updating the BOS logo is also due.

3. Tom O'Donovan is continuing to track land acquisitions and sales in Bow. Lot 133L (Smokey-Ogden-Nesbitt) "is going to sell" though "stuck in the same spot for several months". South Bow Road: the "P&S is signed". Quimby Road lots are for sale. Lots are moving, BOS needs to get serious about land acquisition. Increasing concern about the acquisition pace of land in Bow for development was expressed. BOS is looking for approaches and would welcome citizens who want to pitch in and help find solutions for land preservation. Or identify and contact landowners who are interested in preserving their land. Also we need to identify high value areas for conservation focus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. Next month's meeting is on December 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux Secretary
Bow Open Spaces

