

BOW OPEN SPACES
Baker Public Library
Final minutes
December 6, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Martin Murray, Frank Boucher, Marc Ferland, Bob Lux; Absent: Eric Thum, Ken Demain. Members: Sandy Crystall, Brian Harjula, Ian Hanson, Beth Lux.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Current members: As of November 30, there was \$2045 of membership money plus another \$255 in contributions from 29 members (12 regular, 6 supporting, 10 contributing and 1 Summit Society - so far). Last year at this time, we had 33 members, so down 4 and down \$430 in membership money. We are behind but Bob is not "super-worried" since we have had slow starts. Bob notes he got very little response to the reminder he sent out.

Active members (Dec 1, 2021 to Nov 30 this year) : 77 vs 90 last year, so 13 less for a total of \$5155 in membership dues from all categories.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric was absent. He sent the notes included below:

1. Checked Crescent Drive easement on November 18 with the stewardship team of Bob Lux, Carol Niegisch and Paul Shagoury. Concentrated on boundary lines between residential houses. Couldn't find granite post identifying property boundary to left of Crescent View Trail. No easement issues discovered. Carol and Paul offered to monitor other easements as well. Bob Lux returned at a later date to check more property lines.
2. Michael Ploof, Fieldstone Land Consultants, sent me a revised proposal to survey the Patrick Richardson easement. Since there is already a recorded boundary plan for this parcel, he needs to just recover and flag the lot lines and monuments referenced in the plan. The estimate is \$3000. In addition it will cost \$150-200 to install each new monument. He can do the work in the winter, depending on snow cover. The Conservation Commission agreed to pay \$3000 for the survey. But I will need to ask the CC for additional money to pay for any monuments that have to be installed. I am scheduled to discuss this at their December 12 meeting.
3. Contacted Jorge Astorga at the Land Trust Alliance. We are not members but should be with all the resources and contacts they provide to land trust organizations throughout the country. Need approval from Bow Open Spaces to become a member of LTA. Not sure what the membership cost is right now-their dues are based on the size of our organization.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Martin says the newsletter will go out tomorrow. He then brought up the idea of a rebranding for BOS raised at the November meeting. His feeling is that a consultant-facilitator might be an approach we want to take - make a plan, vision etc. with new name and logo. The point was to disconnect the town of Bow from the conservation easement name.

Bob had mentioned Bend-in-the-River Land Trust as an option to a bow in the river. Use of "granite" in the naming was brought up & dismissed. Martin suggested establishing a budget

to this end and making a commitment to having a name in a designated period of time. Bob notes that when Five Rivers rebranded itself it grew considerably. The need for a meeting to discuss vision, mission statement etc was emphasized by Bob. Names were suggested and dismissed. Again, expertise was emphasized as important to going forward. Harry summarized succinctly as having a budget and proposal or vision statement. Sandy noted perhaps define what we want organizationally and then work on a design. She will speak with her spouse in search of a name for additional help in organizational enhancement. Bob and Martin will work on creating a proposal/vision statement and assessing a cost in the new year. Again the need to identify properties and establish relationships with property owners in town was noted as part of future vision for land conservation.

TRAILS REPORT: Mark spoke about leaf blowing - if there is none it can be dangerous, namely for mountain bikers. A minimal amount of trail width is needed to make it safe for night bike riding. Safety is titrated with the soil erosion that leaf blowing can cause. Composting material helps hold topsoil in place from rainfall. Rocks, roots and wet leaves are problematical. Forests with different leaf ground covers are either more or less "hazardous". It is a 'fine line' Mark says and reports that unspecified people are taking trail clearing upon themselves in places.

New sign posts for both ends of the Warner Trail were placed by Marc, Brian and Jim for which Brian produced some color photos.

The Bow town trails alteration form was also discussed by Sandy. Bob Dawkins inquired about the size of the project required for reporting - say adding a water bar for erosion was cited by Bob. Use of this form should not apply to ordinary trail maintenance. Whether it is discouraging "bureaucratic red tape" (or not) was brought up. Unauthorized trails on town land, moreso with wetland incursion, are problematical. The Hope Lane and Peaslee bike ramp came up as a prime example of unauthorized permission.

Regarding Mark's project list, bridge coverings are on top. He pointed out that he's not pursued trail committee help recently due to time constraints. He stresses small group facilitation - 'we set a date and we do it'. The cellar hole sign-but-no-trail was brought up as a good high school student project adding a short trail. Dealing with invasives was brought up by Sandy: "pull up, don't cut". The Robertson Trail progress was slowed by loss of administration support and the beaver dam issue. The hunter's stand on Life Trail was due to be removed about December 10.

WRAP UP:

Sandy brought up a potential warrant article for town meeting. In a section of 2009 RSA 36A on Conservation Commissions, optional powers (section 36-A:4-a) granted to the Conservation Commission included part (b) to provide money to qualified organizations such as Bow Open Spaces via warrant article for anything where the CC would not have a property interest. This would go before the select board to add as a warrant article for town meeting this March.

A draft of the warrant article was provided by Sandy:

"Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, 1(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transfers relating thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?"

A motion was made by Bob to support the Conservation Commission's effort to support placement of this article on the town warrant. It was seconded and passed.

Finally Bob asked if Luke Insana could come in and give a presentation on his BHS senior project in Nottingcook Forest in January. This was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces