

BOW OPEN SPACES
Baker Public Library
Final Minutes
Date: January 3, 2023

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Frank was absent but his report was read and accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bob defined active vs current members again. Current members are members who have paid from July first to the day before the meeting. Active members are those whose ('rolling') membership has not expired in the past twelve months. Right now, we have 43 paid members (58 at this time last year). Nineteen members from last year (July 1 to Dec 31st) have not paid their dues (which is "huge for us"). Bob has been pursuing these individuals. He's hoping at least half will rejoin. Current members paid \$3070 in dues (last year \$4150). A \$5000 donation for 'general operating expenses' came just before New Year's from the Howard Family Foundation in north central Massachusetts. Bob is waiting for information as to what this is about. Active members (in this case the calendar year 2022) 73 have paid (96 last year), for \$4910 in dues revenue and \$6115 last year.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric reports getting another estimate from the surveyor two months ago, revised from \$5,000 to \$3,000 because there is a recorded boundary, so he will flag the lines and install granite corner monuments (with adjacent metal post?) @ \$150-\$200 per monument for, at Eric's count, 15 monuments. Eric will present the information at the Conservation Commission meeting next week. Boundary delineation between Hammond and Richardson easements is okay per Eric, answering a question Harry raised.

Eric also brought up the Land Trust Alliance. They require answers to several questions, one which is BOS operating expenses (c. \$1900 per Frank, for dues calculation which would be \$300 for annual membership). We would get access to educational resources, training, conservation defense, inclusion in a land trust directory and support in implementing *Land Trust Standards Quarterly*, a magazine. A 28 page document concerning land trust principles and ethics needs to be reviewed by the BOS board members. BOS would need to sign a statement attesting to agreement with the document contents (eg, ensuring government filing is in order, review and approve an annual budget, have a board development process including member training, an annual performance review, fund raising conflicts of interest, selecting conservation projects etc). A motion was made and passed to join the Land Trust Alliance.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: (1) Martin got the newsletter out a few days ago. It was delivered to a little over 200 email addresses, opened by 196, clicked by at least 45 (perhaps to see Tom O'Donovan's essay on land acquisition on the BOS website) as well as birds and trail safety. (2) He drafted a town report about BOS (3) Bob & Martin will check in with the Land Alliance for help on the BOS vision when we are members. (4) He also transferred \$620 from PayPal. Producing a general article for the *Bow Times* was also brought up.

TRAILS REPORT: Some specific trees on easements in need of cutting up and removal after the wind storm were brought up. There was acknowledgement of leaf blowing and chain saw "angels" who do trail work anonymously. Marc mentioned many trees down in the School

Forest. In addition to blowdowns, there are many sticks and branches on the ground. The tree stand on Life Trail is still up, removal awaiting convenient weather.

WRAP UP: Harry got an email forwarded from Dave Stack regarding a resident at 9 Crescent Dr. inquiring about dedicating the Crescent Trail to his father, an avid hiker - dedicating the trail, not necessarily changing its name. It was stressed that having made contributions is significant in naming BOS forest trails. Addressing these requests for future policy is important. Naming trails after town residents for random, varied reasons is problematical. BOS will meet with the family to reach an understanding. Perhaps a quality bench at the trail head might be a work-around - as well as a stipulation for maintaining it and the immediate surrounding area. Tom will write a general policy/response to such requests. It is felt that a financial contribution is essential.

Updating the Walker-Hammond trail map with the new Warner Trail is in process. It was mentioned that the Rookery trail goes onto private land and this should be shown at some time. Inspection revealed that it is.

BOS Land Conservation is active. Bob spoke at length on the situations regarding several parcels in town that could be sold for commercial development - or put in conservation easement. He points out that we need to consider which parcels are candidates for Conservation Commission funds and/or grant funds. Even raising funds from the public was brought up for one particular parcel facing significant development costs/restrictions. A good discussion about trying to save property from development ensued.

The meeting was preceded by Luke Insana's report on his Bow HS senior project working on Glacial Boulder Trail improvement with help from school friends and Bob Dawkins, Tom O'Donovan and Eric Thum.

Finally Harry says that Bow Parks and Recreation is looking for a leader for a (potential) snowshoe hike on Saturday, February 11 at 10am (or later).

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces