

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: February 7, 2023

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Current members: Bob notes there are 23 regular members (down 6), 10 supporting (up 2), 21 contributing (up 1), 2 Summit Society (down 1) for a total of 56 paid members since July 1. We are now down 4 vs down 23 at the end of 2022. Total membership dues are \$3965 (\$4210 last year). Charitable contributions: \$5000 from the Howard Family Foundation for \$5320 total (vs. \$2160 last year).

Currently, there are 7 new members, named with a few interesting associations that Bob related.

Active members (paid between Feb 1, 2022 to Jan 31, 2023): 36 regular members (down 11), 14 supporting (up 3), 29 contributing (up 1), 3 Summit Society for a total of 82 (down 7) for total dues of \$5745 (\$5665 last year).

The total active membership is 82 (the year before 89). Overall, the membership is in good shape per Bob.

STEWARDSHIP: On January 9, the Conservation Commission approved \$3000 to survey the Patrick Richardson easement as well as paying for the stone monument markers to set corners at \$150-200 per monument. The surveyor indicated that maybe in mid-February he could begin this work. It was noted that tree cutting is visible from Branch Londonderry Turnpike.

BOS voted to become members of the Land Trust Alliance. Our pertinent information was sent to them and \$300 will be sent for membership.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin sent an article to the *Bow Times* regarding land acquisition as published in our newsletter, also with promotional information for joining BOS. He had printed 150 color tri-folds (of the three trail maps we have) to send to new members. He and Bob still expect to talk about our branding the BOS name/logo with professional help.

TRAILS REPORT: Marc was absent.

LAND CONSERVATION: Bob reports that he has formed a subcommittee of Bob, Tom, Eric and Sandy (as Conservation Commission rep). They have been working on a potential purchase and two potential easements (lots 114 & 115 on Branch Londonderry Tpk). Bob says BOS made an offer that was refused. The owners were not willing to negotiate. They also sent letters to a few different landowners of large parcels with no response as of yet. A letter signed by Bob was sent to NH DES supporting the Coastal Forest Products project with regards to offset mitigation.

The town meeting warrant article re the RSA 36 proposal giving powers to the Conservation Commission to donate money to a land trust organization with similar interests to facilitate conservation transactions within the same town was rejected by the select board. This is not favorable since the Conservation Commission can't help BOS at this point.

Land Trust Alliance mandates do not apply because BOS joins simply as a \$300/year member for access to resources, not as an accredited organization agreeing to/fulfilling their 28 principles.

WRAP UP:

Brian Harjula & Jim Jensen removed the Life Trail tree stand in January. Some spikes remain being too difficult to remove. Sandy points out that there is another tree stand but on a Fish & Game easement near Hanson Field and Turee Pond. Brian & Jim will look into it, placing a notice of removal in place approximately three months before any action.

The Nottingcook Forest kiosk plexiglass was found on the ground by Eric. A new map printed on vinyl and mounted on aluminum is needed. Don Berube has the forest map on file.

The issue or question as to how many acres of land in conservation under permanent protection in Bow was raised which is about 10-12%. Harry points out a misconception amongst some in town that there is more protected conservation land than there actually is.

Harry discussed the many blowdowns on various trails. And that in School Forest and on the Robinson Road end, not many people have been using trails due to difficulty of negotiating snow conditions.

Finally, Sandy brings up permitting on trail work and necessary notifications or compliance with use of the DES trail notification form. If wetland is disturbed (ie, bridge, culvert) as long as the support is actually on (or in) the wetland, use of the form is required. If it spans 'bank to bank', DES notification is not needed. Stepping stones in a 'temporary' wetland (say wet after rain fall) were discussed without clear agreement as to what was what. Stepping stones on temporarily wet trails are generally OK, supported bridges are generally not.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary
Bow Open Spaces