

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: April 4, 2023

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

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

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

The next two items were presented by Bob Dawkins:

(1) the Strategic Planning Proposal: He and Martin met with Lizann Peyton (in the White River, Vt area referred from Lakes Region Conservation Trust) and gave her the go-ahead to come up with an outline (goals/objectives/time frames) and budget for BOS which was presented at the meeting. We should have a 3-5 year time period to see where we would like to be: grow through increased recognition in the community, have increased engagement of board members with the community, achieve rebranding of logo/motto, increase membership as the base for BOS growth in all manners, develop a path of sustainability, have a succession plan for boards and committees, resolve presidency and VP issues, recruit younger board members, engage more community members into stewardship & trails, etc. There are four members in the sub-committee who would meet with Lizann: Bob, Eric, Martin and Tom O'Donovan. There will be a once-a-month report to board members - a report separate from those of BOS meetings. Agreeing on and implementing the plan is to be worked out in the next year. Lizann estimated 32 hours of work at \$150/hour for \$4800. Starting work on this could begin soon after approval. A motion to accept this proposal was made and approved.

(2) Land Conservation: Various issues were discussed. Two existing proposals have not come to fruition for the time being. The Coastal mitigation plan is still in progress per Tom. Bob reports two new possibilities, one an 11 acre parcel on Woodhill-Hooksett for donation. He also expressed a need to contact a 133 acre landowner, the locale not mentioned. Finally, there is a substantial parcel in the South End of Bow that the owner does not want to see developed that might be negotiable.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: For current members, we collected \$5065 in total dues from 70 paid current members (last year, \$4980 from 73 members). For the active members, we collected \$6075 in total dues from 84 paid members versus \$5735 last year from 90 members. There is a decrease in members but more revenue from higher paying membership categories. It is to be noted that only eighty-four members in a town of 8000 needs continual effort for improvement.

STEWARDSHIP: Eric and Tom met with Caroline Guerdet on 3/28 on the subject of organizing stewardship files. She will have the task of putting all the easement files into binders - survey maps, monitor reports, property history etc as well as scanning and Cloud storage them for additional protection. Tom notes that the Heritage Commission has a locked, protected room in the Bow library with storage space available.

Eric also went to the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds to get some missing conservation easement documents. The only one still missing is Knox Forest. He will continue to look. Fieldstone Surveys continues to work on the Patrick Richardson easement now that the snow is gone. Eric wants to set up dates for easement monitoring and assign individuals to adopt

easements and have them develop proficiency. Bob, Tom and Sandy will attend the Saving Special Places Conference April 15 with workshops on different easement topics. Bob says he will also attend that and the LCHIP seminar on funding later this week. Sandy will attend a state ARM fund program tomorrow.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin is still working on the spring newsletter to include a photo from Harry, an mountain bike-on-trails article from Tom, a vernal pools article and an article about the BOS Strategic Plan study. Martin will submit something to be decided to the *Bow Times*. Bob reports that he and Eric are working on their slide show for BOS promotion on May 24.

TRAILS REPORT: Marc says he doesn't have much to report. The South Road kiosk map has been restored by Tom. Marc has looked at town forest trails from the point of view of winter cleanup. Bob notes he spent 90 minutes yesterday cleaning the trail from South Bow Rd. to Great Hill summit. He dealt with a lot of small stuff and will go back with a chain saw additionally. Bob brought up a spring trails clean-up day as we've done in the past and involving the community. Sandy brought up a bridge needing re-decking in Knox Forest on the Boundary Trail. Marc says there is another bridge as well. There are also surfaces that need chicken-wiring. Once again, the cellar hole trail needs re-establishing off Eagle in Hammond NP. Robertson Trail is still a work-in-progress reports Sandy.

WRAP UP: Eric discussed the June picnic wondering about a different site due to the current one's being on the dark and buggy side, ie, looking for a more potentially popular site and, additionally, advertising the gathering to the membership. Tom offered to host the picnic at his house. Doing this on a September weekend day was also considered and inviting the membership with an RSVP. There would still be a regular June meeting but in the library and to include the election. Having an invited guest to speak at the June meeting would be an enhancement.

Finally, Sandy brought up the threat of hemlock loss due to woolly adelgid infestation and thought it useful to create a poster for kiosks to educate on the same. Such infestation has become more prevalent in NH. Recording where the woolly adelgid is spotted is important in slowing or stopping the spread which is moving north as climate warms.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lux
Secretary
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