

## BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: May 2, 2023

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

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

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Martin reports that he and Bob met with Lizann Peyton twice and are pleased with the interaction leading to eventual establishment of measurable goals and objectives to grow BOS with a three to five year plan. They haven't talked about rebranding yet. Tom reports they also talked about board recruitment as well as reaching out to the community at large for input. Having a BOS member at a trail head with brochures and maps and just talking to hikers as they enter the woods would be a good information gathering idea. Also, Eric says we should develop a list of stakeholders: people in the media, realtors, snowmobilers, mountain bikers, orienteers, scouts, cross country high school coach(s), high school senior projects, trail runners etc.

LAND CONSERVATION: Work on the eleven acre lot on Woodhill-Hooksett Road (23-3-41) is in progress (more to say in future meetings). The landowner is truly committed to donating. We are still working on the Westover property and related Coastal mitigation.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Current Membership (July 1-April 30, 2023):

77 members, \$5445 in dues;

last yr, 75 members, \$5310 dues;

and \$5345 in charitable donations (\$5k from the Howard family)

Active Membership (May 1-April 30, 2023):

86 members, \$5905 dues;

last year, 80 members, \$5575 in dues

There are 19 members who have not renewed, nine from the first half of year and the rest from Jan 1 to now.

"Membership is ok" Bob says.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Eric met with Carolyn Guerdet for the process of putting stewardship documents in binders. The baseline is to include maps, property data, historical information, ecology, easement deeds and monitor reports. The next step is to scan the documents and put a copy into the cloud as a backup. Microsoft Sharepoint and Office 365 were mentioned as methods to do so. Storing hard copy in the Heritage Commission space in the library is possible and will be investigated.

The Patrick Richardson easement will be (finally) surveyed by Fieldstone asap per Eric but is still collecting additional data to resolve certain reference plan conflicts. Eric, Bob, Tom and Sandy attended the Saving Special Places conference on April 15. Eric got contacts from UNH (the website "Nature Groupie") for stewardship day. Eric will see what he can do to have representatives come for a BOS activity. Finally Eric, Tom and Bob Lux walked the Scheyd

easement boundaries and found nothing of concern. There was one section (<200' long) where they could not find blazes.

On June 5, Five Rivers is having a Regional Planning Workshop in Concord to talk about conservation plans.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT:** The spring news letter was distributed on April 30. There were articles on vernal pools and mountain biking. It went to 216 addresses and 55% of recipients opened it, a good result. Martin reports that there are some new members. He noted that he distributed a document to the BOD with annual web costs. He notes that expenses are not really significant. The creation of a President's Column (or Visitor Column) was brought up for additional content to the News Letter. The BOD would provide necessary criteria to the readership.

**TRAILS REPORT:** Not much to report per Marc. He notes that several new people inquired about volunteering for trail work. And also that, at times, "trail angels" do clean-up work without credit. Mark (along with Tom) will be leading MTB rides in town to promote BOS and increase membership. They will ride once a week for some 8 weeks, to include both beginner and intermediate groups for an hour per ride. Rick Silverberg reported seeing four teens on motorized dirt bikes at the Crescent Trailhead. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on conservation land. E-bikes have a lesser trail impact (being more like mountain bikes) on one pass but, requiring less energy, their users may ride the same route more. On the other hand, they tend to be more mature users. Also, bridge work is needed on the Boundary Trail from several helpers. Harry commented on hiking Walker and Hammond noting the good condition the trails were in especially considering the amount of work required for cleaning up trees and branches from the heavy late winter snow.

**WRAP UP:** The plan is to meet in the Bow library next month per Harry. Eric will try to invite someone. Eric wonders what we do with our final/revised minutes sent to Harry and Mark after each meeting. Martin says they are archived on the web. Tom points out the need to be diplomatic/general/sparse with land conservation information for numerous reasons. Finance reports need to be password protected. Monthly finance reports need to be added to cloud storage going forward. Bob notes there has not been board approval needed for subcommittee members. This is up to the director of the committee Harry affirms.

Finally, Tom brought up the American Water Works Association drinking water week with a display in the library lobby re arsenic, radon, lead and other potential contaminants in well water. Visit the *Be Well Informed* (NHDES) web site for more information, Tom suggests.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux  
Secretary  
Bow Open Spaces