

## BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: June 6, 2023

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Marc Ferland, Frank Boucher, Ken Demain; Absent: Martin Murray. Members: Brian Harjula, Jim Jensen, Rick Silverberg, Meme Exum,

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

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING: STRATEGIC PLANNING: Bob, Eric, Tom and Martin are having a meeting with Lizann Peyton tomorrow morning. They are going to finalize questions for interviewing persons with a stake in BOS including an email to board (and non-board) members regarding their opinions and the future of BOS. Term expirations were brought up. They are on the list of officers, phone numbers, addresses, etc.

Bob says Tom is willing to step in as BOS VP and take over the presidency from Harry at some agreed-upon point in the future.

LAND CONSERVATION: The sub-committee is working on the 11 acre Houghton lot on Woodhill-Hooksett Road. Tom put in a pre-AP (or pre-proposal) request form to the state ARM (Aquatic Resource Mitigation) fund for expenses such as survey, appraisal, legal issues and stewardship related to this property. The fund is created when developers eradicate wetlands - they must put money into this fund as an offset. Bob says we should have a response in the next month.

BOS sent in a pre-AP for the Westover property as well. Scenario 1: Coastal buys the property, we get the easement. Or 2: Coastal does not. We put the pre-AP fund request in to the state. We can still try to protect 40 acres of Westover property - which amounts to a substantial amount of ARM funding.

Bob and Tom have done expense estimates. On the Houghton lot, on the east boundary, there is an encroachment that will require restoration with evergreen trees in re-establishing the border. BOS put in a request for \$6,000 for this. A decision will “take a long time”. It is nearly a one year process.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

### Current Membership (July 1-May 31, 2023)

87 paid members, \$6025 in membership dues in the first 11 months (83 last year, \$5690 dues)

15 new members as well as 4 who had let lapse and returned.

\$5345 in charitable donations (\$5K from the Howard family) versus \$2165 last year.

### Active membership (June 1, 2022-May 31,2023)

88 paid members, \$6325 in dues in first 11 months (84 last year, \$5790 dues)

Bob notes there are quite a few new members in May from hiking & biking. The membership report now includes a column for new members.

STEWARDSHIP: Eric says that Fieldstone work should be happening by now, starting with the setting of lot corners. The old survey map boundaries did not adequately close. On May 24, Bob and Eric gave a presentation of BOS mission and activities to the Bow Young-at-Heart group which went well. There were 25-30 attendees. Eric says they will do a presentation for the BOS & BOD at a future meeting. Also the Bow Garden Club expressed interest in seeing it.

Eric says he has started scanning stewardship files to a thumb drive but still has 3/4ths of project to do. He notes we can store hardcopies in the Heritage Room in the library. BOS meeting minutes are sent to Harry and Martin with a hard copy kept by the secretary. These will be

be put in the Cloud when we have it available. The BOS by-Laws will be added.

On May 11, Eric walked the Boucher Forest boundary with Carol and Bob Niegisch. They noted a deer stand on the property without identification. It's not clear BOS has authority over this issue since the Boucher property is private. We should be notifying the Bouchers Harry notes. Carol & Bob will be stewards of this property. Eric noted that Bob Lux will serve as Hammond steward.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT:** Martin was absent.

At this time, Bob Lux made a presentation regarding the orienteering meet held at Nottingcook on May 20. Attendance was around 35 walkers, hikers, runners utilizing the various courses. Being off the trail much of the time for Bob again revealed how lovely much of usually unseen Nottingcook is. Giving a synopsis of orienteering and the meet for the BOS newsletter was suggested by Harry. A future activity could be done by the scouts and focus on the Bow community. Adding orienteering to the BOS website was suggested by Rick Silverberg. There has been an orienteering map of the forest in the past which needs updating. Bob Dawkins noted Nottingcook Forest is in a new book *Fifty-Three Walks in Town Forests* (author Thomas Eid) regarding forests and conservation land throughout NH.

**TRAILS REPORT:** Marc says the thirty-foot bridge on Boundary Trail will cost \$3-400 for materials. It is currently "red-listed". Marc asks if BOS has a contractor account in town for a discount. Once again the work of anonymous "trail angels" was noted regarding blow-downs on Boundary. A trails work date of June 24th was mentioned. There is also year 2005 bridge in Nottingcook with a portion of rotting wood underneath. On the Eagle trail, there are two snowmobile trail bridges with rotting planks ("holes right through") Jim reports. Mark says we need to partner with the snowmobile club to expedite replacement/repair/maintenance work. And also, "DES approval for areas such as the Robertson Trail wet areas takes time".

Jim Jensen notes that the roof for the kiosk at Dunbarton Center Road is back in place.

It's noted that Boucher Forest has a single path through it. The main passage thru Boucher is by snowmobile trail. There is no permission for hiking in this forest. A reroute of the lower Eastman Trail is in process to make it dryer, less steep and easier to navigate. Harry notes that he saw a deer on Mrs. Smith's Trail - the first time he's actually seen a deer right on a trail. Local bear sightings were brought up as well. Raccoons seem to be coming back reports Rick. A mind-its-own business raccoon made it across Bow Bog Road reports Marc. Wild turkey sightings are common.

The sponsored mountain bike rides guided by Marc and Jim have been going on for several weeks as a means of BOS publicity.

The "same four teens" (reported last month) on dirt bikes were seen again by Rick coming down from Crescent Lane direction on the blue-blazed trail. Bob thinks they came off the Woodbury side. HOV requires permitted use and must be signed as such or by written land owner permission.

The September meeting will be public Bob points out with our BOS portion before.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux  
Secretary  
Bow Open Spaces