

BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: October 3, 2023

OFFICERS and BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Tom O'Donovan, Bob Lux, Frank Boucher. Board: Bob Dawkins, Martin Murray, Ken Demain; Absent: Eric Thum, Marc Ferland; Members: Sandy Crystall, Jim Jensen, Beth Lux, Meme Exum, Rick Silverberg; Guests: Eleana Colby, Kip McDaniel.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report was approved and accepted with some change in Strategic Planning and Land Conservation.

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Bob says there is a sub-committee meeting tomorrow with Lizann to look at the draft for the time line of objectives, phases 1 (years 1-2) and phase 2 (years 3-5). This is to be presented on 10/20 to the entire board for review of goals, objectives and timeline. Bob notes the action items are for our internal use. Information on objectives may be put on the website in the future. Bob reports that there is still no retreat space for October 20th BOD meeting.

LAND CONSERVATION: Bob says we are working on the Source Water Protection grant (as well as a local SWP grant) to cover up to 25k in costs to fund the one grant application. We have applied for both. The application was reviewed with a set of questions generated which need answering asap to move ahead. Tom sums the grant proposal as follows: 3.4k for title research and 20k for stewardship.

The Houghton lot and Westover are the active lots. Re Westover, we get the easement from Coastal which Bob says should be donated to the town with BOS holding the easement. If Coastal donates it, we would ask for 20k for stewardship. It's essential that stewardship funds are adequate and boundary surveys are completed and that everything is pinned and blazed before we sign an easement document.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: There is a new member in July who contributed \$105. Bob hasn't sent membership renewals since half the board was not present at the last meeting for proposed membership increases: Regular to \$30, joint to \$40; individual supporting to \$60, joint supporting to \$90; contributing individual \$90, joint contributor \$125. Then new categories: Conservationist (changed from Summit Society) remain at \$250, Environmentalist \$500 and Preservationist \$1000. A motion was made and passed to accept these new levels.

STEWARDSHIP: (by email from Eric)

"1. Fieldstone completed the survey of the Patrick Richardson easement. Eric has asked for the official paper map survey, but has not received it yet. Eric will walk the property to check on the survey markers and monuments. Final payment will be made by the Conservation Commission once he receives the maps/documents from Fieldstone.

2. Eric asked Frank to pay Carolyn Guerdet for her work so far putting stewardship records together in binders with labels. Carolyn will finish her work scanning records on to a flash drive. Then all records will be stored at the Baker Free Library."

A discussion followed about expecting a signed (by the surveyor) survey plan, including confirmation that corner pins are actually present.

Tom says he went to the Conservation Committee (ConCom) meeting this month. He reports the need to report to us pertinent items covered at their meetings. There is a RFP (request for proposal) for solar panels in the non-easement area around the sandpit among other places in town and a need to make sure it is actually outside the easement. Tom also notes that ConCom is starting to discuss strategy work and suggests that we work in tandem with them.

Early this year, Bob & Sandy went to the select board asking them to propose a warrant article to adopt the Conservation Commission RSA to obtain authority for giving money to BOS (as a recognized land trust) for the Houghton parcel, for example. ConCom can currently donate funds to any qualified 501.c3 land trust. BOS would like this narrowed so that donations can only be made to BOS. Seeking agreement with the select board is a work in progress. Bob notes this would increase speed in funding for various town parcels which is a long, slow process under grants.

Select board member Eleana Colby also spoke on this topic as a resident. We need to convey the point that there is no loss of local control to the select board. Education on this point with them is important.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin has been reviewing parts of the website that Meme is developing and will provide suggestions to her. He continues to work on the SP committee and is gathering news for the fall newsletter. Mark shared photos on the bridge construction and information on the biking events. He has drafted a brief article on the strategic planning process. He expects to finalize and distribute the newsletter this month.

TRAILS REPORT: (by email from Marc)

“Nothing much to report on the trails side. Both our official trails committee members and our trail angels are making my job easy. Tom O'Donovan forwarded me a message from one of our angels named Bill Sullivan. He's a heavy user of our trails and has a "honey-do" list of light duty items he's got on his radar. I suspect there are many more folks like Bill. There's a downed birch on Boulder Trail, and a couple blowdowns in Nottingcook that I plan on getting over to clear out soon...but who knows, they may be gone by the time I get there.

A thousand thank you's to Meme Exum for the website work/initiative. Sorry I'll miss your presentation. Also, many thanks for the tons of

hours of administrative work from our special Strategic Planning Committee members Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Tom O'Donovan, and Martin Murray.”

Tom brings up the Crown Trophy (a business located in Hooksett, making trophies, certificates, diplomas etc) who printed a map diagram for BOS for free. As a result, he has established a relationship with the owners. One of them is a ‘trail angel’ who ‘is working his way thru all the forests”. Tom sent him a thank you note. Crown Trophy offered to make a new poster for the sign at the top of Great Hill at their cost.

WRAP UP: Bob on the BOS website: Meme is drafting a new version. We hope to have a presentable draft for the next board meeting which will have current events, a donate button etc. It will be moved from WordPress to Squarespace offering more opportunity.

Sandy says she attended a meeting on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and methods to discuss access to places in the forest in an emergency, fire or presence of ‘rogue trails’ etc. Also the status of the Robertson trail was once again brought up by Harry. It’s noted that improvement status is slow, to say the least.

Bob notes that the The Land Trust Alliance seminar he is going attend is about digital record keeping and another is the NH Association of Conservation Commission’s “How to pass a conservation bond” on October 24.

Kip McDaniel, a new Page Road landowner who abuts the Patrick Richardson easement, visited to say hello

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lux
Secretary

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