

12-03-14 Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing on proposed budget for FY16

Board Members Present: Andrew French, Marcy Gibson, Livy Strong, Marie Lynch, Jim Massingham

Board Members Absent: Bob Naylor

Guests Present: Keegan Tierney, Emmanuel Tissot

Meeting came to order at 7pm

Meeting minutes from 11/05/14 and 11/19/14 were reviewed. Board voted to approve both individually.

Financial Report: Marcy presented the financial report, to be done the first meeting of each month. The numbers she reviewed were as follows:

12/3/14 Balances

Checking	\$19,488
Power	\$10,009
CD	\$1,376

\$30,873

Marie had reviewed the financial papers that Marcy had given her previously (per accountant instructions), and reported that all of the information and calculations were correct.

Public Hearing: Marcy gave a quick overview of the proposed budget, reading through the packet that was handed out. The first page shows the letter that was submitted to the towns, summarizing our budget expenses, the second page shows an overview of previous year budgets, and includes 2015-2016, and the last page shows a breakdown of our capital reserve fund.

Emmanuel questioned why our expenses for snowplowing have increased from \$0 to \$7000, and it was explained to him that we are uncertain whether the towns will continue to plow for us next year, so we are budgeting it as if they weren't.

No further questions about the budget from guests or board members.

Park Management: Livy went over a brief review of the compost system, its origins and where we are headed, for the benefit of the guests. Andy then explained the new receptacles that are being put in (to be finished by him Saturday 12/6), and that the billing with Gauthier's Trucking (for removal of dog waste) has been set up, and he is just waiting for them to call him back when they have the container for us. They estimated they could begin removal next week if we so desired, but we will probably wait for another month or so until we run out of the compostable bags. Andy will install everything this Saturday except the trash bins, for fear that people will begin to use them before we are prepared to empty them.

Publicity: Livy has emailed us all the Annual Meeting Warning, and we should all try and print a few out to hang up in local places. Marcy will post it in 7 Days. Marcy will also add it to the website. Marcy would like Andy to stay after so she can show him something on the website in terms of formatting.

Trails: Keegan Tierney has joined us to speak with us about our trails system, and the management plan we have wanted to put into place (that he would be creating). He spoke about his background and qualifications, some projects he has done in the past, and the recent work he assisted with that we had done on our trails this summer by VYCC. He showed us an example of a management plan that he made for another organization with a large trail system, with examples of the GPS maps, photos of problem areas, and general maintenance tips for our future use. The board was impressed with how it looked. He believes that there are many ways to manage trails, and the most important thing is that we as a board first decide how we would like to manage them, and then design a maintenance plan around that. He also believes that we can make investments into our trails that will not need to be worked on or improved for 10-20 years. The maintenance plan also includes financial projections to better help us plan for repairs in the future.

As a board we had already voted to approve \$2000 for Keegan to put together a management plan, and Keegan stated that the plans cost on average \$500 per mile. Considering this, the amount we approved will probably not end up being enough, but it will be easier to see once he begins the work, and it could end up being less. He recommended that we start thinking about how we would like to manage the trails this winter, and then this spring he will get out on the trails and begin the management plan. The board agreed that was a good plan, and Keegan will work on a contract for us. Jim asked Keegan about the status of an invoice for the work that was done this summer, and he said he could get it to him in a few days, considering all the costs incurred were for Labor, so they don't have to break anything out for us.

Other Business: Emmanuel Tissot was kind enough to join us for a meeting, to see if becoming a board member was something he would be interested in. He stated that he was interested, and thought we did good work as a board, but he was not sure if he could make the time commitment required. He said he will continue to think about it, and get back to us soon. Livy thought that it would be good to wait until January (so he can be elected) before doing something anyway, and everyone thought that made sense.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm