TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 17, 2015 Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Lenky, First Selectman
Kerstin Forrester, Selectman
Shaina Smith, Selectman

ALSO PRESENT: M. Chinatti, Interim Recording Secretary
Members of the Public (sign in sheet attached to these minutes)

RECEIVED
2015 FEB 23 A 9:13
TOWN OF THOMPSON
TOWN CLERK

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 3, 2015 – **(M/S/C Forrester/Smith)** to approve as presented. Carried unanimously.

February 5, 2015 – **(M/S/C Forrester/Smith)** to approve as presented. Carried unanimously.

February 10, 2015 – **(M/S/C Forrester/Lenky)** to approve as presented. Carried unanimously.

February 12, 2015 – **(M/S/C Smith/Forrester)** to approve as presented. Carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

K. Forrester

- Received Building Inspector Report for permits totaling $196,385, with fees of $2,031.
- Tax Collector's Report – doing well, not quite as well as last year; about 90.5% of taxes collected vs. 91.7% this time last year, and TWPCA is at 63%.
- NECCOG Special Meeting Agenda – K. Lembo, State Comptroller, requesting more towns to sign up for direct deposit, noting that comments can be emailed to comptroller.lembo@ct.gov.
- Trails Committee – Update on what they're doing, and on rules and regulations. The Committee questioned if they were sanctioned by the Board of Selectmen, noted they are an advisory Committee and included a Mission Statement. The Committee is not sure if they are requesting to continue to act, which they have no problem doing.

P. Lenky responded, stating this Board should continue to review the documentation provided and, if there are any changes, that those changes be approved at the next meeting.

- Letter from Bill St. Onge that he responded to 929 Riverside Drive – he contacted Wells Fargo re the grant and asked whether they would honor the permission to access if it ends up with the property so the Town could move forward. Wells Fargo is asking for some indemnities. She stated the letter was a little disappointing.
- Community Art Show notice from Ms. Landry.

S. Smith

- Reached out to James Smith, who wrote an FOI article in the CT Mirror, which is why S. Smith included the FOI Pledge on this meeting's agenda.

P. Lenky

- Interstate Reliability Project Update – tree trimming and installing mats in Thompson. He noted that, if not for the snow, they would be working on foundations.
- Letter dated 2/17/15 from Donald Pimental requesting copy of the recording of the February 2, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting. P. Lenky noted the meeting was on February 3, not on February 2.
- Letter from Thompson Middle School thanking the Town highway workers for their assistance with snow removal at the school.
- Letter of resignation from Andrew Richardson, which P. Lenky read aloud. **(M/S/C Smith/Lenky)** to move to Other Business resignation of Andrew Richardson. Carried unanimously.
- Letter of resignation from Sara Laughlin. **(M/S/C Forrester/Lenky)** to move to Other Business resignation of Sara Laughlin. Carried unanimously.

3. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

K. Forrester

- Question re 65 Main Street status, asking if it was boarded up, to which P. Lenky responded that has not yet been done due to the snow. He stated Public Works will look into it after the snow has been cleaned up and can access the building.
- Asked if the Board could get a copy of the Emergency Management Pre-Assessment Survey submitted February 3, to which Mr. Benoit stated he had sent it to the Board but would resend.
- Noted an EDC meeting is scheduled for February 18, to which Ms. Chinatti responded that the meeting had been cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
- Community Center Policy needs to be added to the March agenda.
- Asked S. Smith if she had contacted the Girl Scouts re the Library Director's offer to host the Girl Scouts for an overnight, to which S. Smith responded she had not because she did not have contact information.
- When S. Smith talked to Allison, she (Allison) indicated she was open to entertaining the Girl Scouts for an overnight.

- Transfer Station HAZMAT day follow up – asked P. Lenky if he'd contacted Winston Avrill, to which P. Lenky responded he had not, and that he first needed to talk to Leo Adams regarding possible dates. She then asked P. Lenky if he checked with Mr. Adams re issuance of violations, to which P. Lenky responded that it's the guy who stands at the building who issues tickets, and that he (Lenky) had not yet spoken with him.
- Budget presentations have started. Most will be held in the afternoons and early evenings so hopefully people will attend.

S. Smith

- Attended the Have a Heart Auction; it was very well attended. The event raised $40K for continuing the existing programs provided by TEEG.
- Looked into the Ice and Snow Ordinance (#10—044), stating this Board needs to review it. She noted it states after 24 hours following snow sidewalks must be cleared and, if sidewalks are frozen, that salt/sand can be used until it can be cleared. She noted fines can be imposed and, under Section 7, Law Enforcement agencies enforce the ordinance. She then asked who is the enforcement authority in the Town of Thompson, to which P. Lenky responded that it would be the Board of Selectmen or the First Selectman. P. Lenky stated the Board might want to advise residents that the ordinance is in place, suggesting a letter to advise them. She continued, noting that school children have to wait for the bus in the street and it's a safety issue. She stated the Board should pay for an advertisement to let residents know that there is an ordinance and that the Town will start fining if it is not complied with. K. Forrester stated the Board should know what houses or businesses are along the sidewalks to send them the letter in case they don't read the Shoppers Guide or the Bulletin, and that a letter might be more effective to get their attention. P. Lenky then noted which roads have sidewalks. He then asked who the letter should be addressed to if the property is rented – the owner or the tenant, to which S. Smith responded the letter should be sent to the property owner. P. Lenky suggested clearing the walks, but the liability issue was brought up, noting that it's a liability no matter what. K. Forrester stated that if it's Town property, the Town would be responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks. P. Lenky stated that, on State roads, the Town owns the sidewalks. S. Smith noted the Ordinance states the Town can remove the snow and put a lien the property, and asked for a tentative date to send letters. P. Lenky stated ownership must be found out first.
- FOI hearing has been rescheduled to March 10, 2015.
- After the last Selectmen's meeting, there were questions by residents regarding the website, and possible misrepresentation of P. Lenky by WINY radio station. She stated the radio station did not misquote P. Lenky, and that he (Lenky) did say the volunteer walked away. She stated she would like the new webmaster to come to some of the Board's meetings, and that it's important the Board re-look at the website, noting that the webmaster would know what its capabilities are.

- Re the Road List, she stated it is her understanding that the list had been formulated by the former Finance Director and former ZEO, and that Leo Adams said he doesn't generate the list but does use it. She stated this Board should look at what the policy/ies is/are to file with the State and where that information is coming from.
- Residents have been asking about the HR Director position, and stated that whatever information the First Selectman can disclose be shared with residents, to which K. Forrester responded that the matter cannot be discussed. P. Lenky stated that, because of it being a delicate issue right now, he would say nothing. S. Smith asked if legal counsel had been sought, to which K. Forrester responded that it had. S. Smith asked who is overseeing the position's duties, to which K. Forrester responded that she (Forrester) is, and that Attorney St. Onge and Attorney Weinstock both agreed that was acceptable.
- Thanked Steve Benoit for the last few storm advisories, noting that he was really up to date with all the information.
- Dr. Erika Kesselman, Darkness to Light, is on board to do the fundraiser.

P. Lenky

- The highway crews have been working very diligently to keep the roads clear.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS **(Limit 3 minutes)**

Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Director: Just sent a copy of the Pre-Assessment.

Wayne O'Brien: Public Works has done a fantastic job the past three weeks.

Kevin Walsh: At the last meeting he asked about a balance in the account to hold on to Mike Martin, and asked if that had been looked into, to which P. Lenky responded that it had not been, that he (Lenky) had overlooked it but that it would be provided. Mr. Walsh then asked if there was an update on the West Thompson Fire Department Roof, to which M. Chinatti responded that the final paperwork the State is awaiting is a corrected final invoice from JD&D, the contractors who performed the work. She stated JD&D is in the process of correcting that invoice and, when she received it it would then be sent to the architect for sign-off, and then forwarded to the State. Mr. Walsh thanked S. Smith for looking into the Starr Road situation and asked if residents would ever get a straight story on who submitted that paperwork to the Board of Selectmen, which then used it at the public hearing. He continued, stating it was at the urging of the Moderator that the Board of Selectmen research and come up with a formal designation on the status of Starr Road and he (Walsh) hasn't heard anything yet, and asked if there is anything that can be presented. P. Lenky responded, stating that when the paperwork came from the State he (Lenky) asked the previous secretary for the information, which she gave him, and he gave it to Leo Adams, who returned it to him (Lenky), which is where he (Lenky) got it. P. Lenky stated that all the Town had to do was to change the date at the

top, noting that he didn't get the list back until summer so the summer date was put on it by the interim secretary. K. Forrester added that she got the copy of the list from M. Chinatti, and she (Forrester) didn't know who M. Chinatti got it from. Mr. Walsh asked if road status change had to go to Town Meeting and people would have the opportunity to express their opinion before any change takes place, and asked if there is any record that says it went to Town Meeting. Mr. Lenky responded that he (Lenky) hasn't found anything and that no changes were made except for the date at the top of the page.

K. Herbert: Reiterated what Mr. O'Brien said regarding the good job done by the highway crew clearing the roads, stating that there is clear demarcation going from Thompson into Woodstock, noting that Thompson's roads were clear. She stated her appreciation for work being done on the roads, especially this year.

K. Beausoleil: Noted, regarding the Board of Finance Agenda that their agenda items for the Blain Road Footbridge Project, Quaddick Road Bridge Replacement, $750K WPCA request and $6,200 HVAC cooling system for the servers, and that the only Board of Selectmen support request on this Board's agenda is for the Blain Road Footbridge. He asked why the same is not done for the other funding requests. K. Forrester responded that the Board approved the HVAC funding two meetings ago. P. Lenky stated that the WPCA request was taken up at the February 3 meeting. S. Smith stated the Board discussed the Quaddick Road Bridge but no action was taken to authorize the Board of Selectmen to go to the Board of Finance for funds.

5. SHR ENERGY – NOEL LAFAYETTE

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to move this item to Item 12a as Mr. Lafayette was not yet present. Carried unanimously.

6. RFP OPENING 2015 CDBG/SMALL CITIES CONSULTANT

L. Wagner & Associates, Waterbury, CT – Application preparation $3,000; no total dollar amount for administration was given, just stated not to exceed funds available.

Lisa Lowe & Associates, Guilford, CT - $81,000

7. FUNDING REQUEST FOR BLAIN ROAD FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT

M. Chinatti reviewed the memo submitted (copy attached to these minutes), providing background and the reason for the funding request. P. Lenky asked if she'd approached Recreation to contribute funds, to which she responded she had not. He asked when construction would be done, to which she responded that scheduling would be done by Army Corps but hopefully by the end of next

year. He asked when the engineering would be done, to which she responded that final plans should be provided by November 2015. K. Forrester asked if UCONN has qualifying projects, to which M. Chinatti responded that this is the Senior project required for graduation.

(M/S/C Forrester/Lenky) to support the request to the Board of Finance for $1,000. Carried unanimously.

8. NEXT STEP LIVING UPDATE – ADDISON WEINSTEIN

A. Weinstein stated that her organization partnered with the Town on an energy update, and that 202 assessments were done, resulting in a savings for those residents of $10,084 over the course of a year collectively, that donations to TEEG were made for every visit, and that donations so far total $3,580 from the canvas. She stated she gave the First Selectman's secretary letters for the next canvas, and her organization is waiting to hear from CL&P before starting the next canvas because some of the rules have been changed. She stated results have been better than expected. She stated that NRG Home Solar, which does a solar leasing program, is now partnered with her organization, and that what's good about it now is it's double the amount of homes in Town that are viable for solar.

9. FOI PLEDGE

S. Smith handed out copies of the document to members and explained her reasoning for proposing this and gave background. She stated she would like department heads and elected officials to sign off on the pledge on an annual basis. S. Smith then read the pledge (copy attached to these minutes). K. Forrester stated she researched NFOC and called FOIC in Hartford and found that FOIC knew nothing about it. She stated it's a political thing generated by a political organization. She continued, stating that municipal officials take an oath to support the laws of the State of Connecticut and FOIA is definitely part of that (oath). She stated her first thought was that it's political posturing saying "I want you to sign this." She continued, stating that if it had come from the State and the FOIC knew about it she would say yes, but to ask that municipal officials sign something more extensive than the Governor has to sign, she does not see the need. She stated the document was generated by an organization other than the FOIC, and that if it came from the FOIC she would take a look at it. S. Smith responded, saying that it would only take five seconds to sign it, and she thinks this is more for transparency purposes, stating that the Town already has policies that aren't being followed. K. Forrester stated she feels it's unfair to bring politics to the Board. S. Smith stated it's how does the Board feel about having the policy. P. Lenky stated he doesn't have information or a comment, but that he doesn't agree with it right now because of, basically, the same issues previously stated. He stated he took an oath, and that whatever information is asked for is given out. S. Smith stated it shouldn't, then, be an issue to adopt some sort of

policy. K. Forrester responded, stating that when officials take the oath, they take the oath to uphold the law, and she really believes this is political posturing. S. Smith stated she would be willing to work with the State (FOI) Commission. P. Lenky stated that if it is supposed to be the State of Connecticut then there would be no problem. K. Forrester agreed, adding if it goes to other state agencies. S. Smith asked if members only sign something if they are mandated to do so. K. Forrester stated she already signed the oath saying she would uphold the FOIA. S. Smith asked why she (Forrester) has a problem signing it, that she (Smith) is willing to generate something and work with the State on it but that if members are not going to sign it unless it's mandated she is not going to waste her time.

10. GIRL SCOUT TRANSFER STATION COOKIE SALE

P. Lenky stated the Girl Scouts have requested permission to hold their cookie sale at the Transfer Station on Saturday, May 14, from 9AM – 12PM. Brief discussion followed.

(M/S/C Lenky/Smith) to grant permission for the Girl Scouts to use the Transfer Station on May 14, 2015 from 9AM – 12NOON for cookie sales. Carried unanimously.

11. WASTE HAULERS PERMIT

Mr. Lenky noted that it's time for haulers to renew their permits, and that the fee is $500, payable by check, per year per vehicle. He stated no permit would be issued until the fee is received, and that the permit allows haulers to pick up trash in town but it does not allow them to use the transfer station. He noted the renewal notice needs to be corrected to specify the fee is per vehicle, haulers must include a copy of their registration, and that renewals are to be sent to the attention of the First Selectman's Office. K. Forrester asked why it doesn't go to the Tax Collector's Office, to which P. Lenky responded the process he stated was the process followed last year. K. Forrester stated the Board needs to look at the policy, noting "the less people that touch it, the better." P. Lenky stated the proper office to receive the renewals is the Finance Department. S. Smith stated the office telephone number also needs to be corrected. K. Forrester questioned whether the fee should be increased, and asked if the Board could hold off on this until the next meeting to find out more details about the fees/how often they're increased/is Thompson in line with other towns. P. Lenky stated the matter would be tabled to the Next meeting.

12. ROAD UPDATES

P. Lenky stated some roads are down to pavement, some have been plowed, and some have not yet been cleaned. S. Smith asked if some "Reduce Speed" signs could be installed on some of the roads, such as Rt. 200 near the highway entrance, due to extreme frost heaves. K. Forrester noted that West Thompson

Road, going over the Dam, is awful due to the snow being blown across the highway, causing at times what could be considered white-out conditions and asked if a snow fence would help, to which P. Lenky responded it would not. He stated drifting is a lot of the problem on some of the roads and he doesn't see a snow fence helping over the dam. He stated he would talk to Leo Adams about putting up signage if any is available.

a. SHR ENERGY – NOEL LAFAYETTE (moved from item 5)

K. Forrester thanked Mr. Lafayette for sending the additional information and stated she checked out the references she could on the website. She stated she feels the Board should go forward, based on everything that has been checked out, as well as for the cost savings on electricity.. S. Smith stated she thought the Board should get the Renewable Energy and Solar Advisory Committees up to date on what the conversations have been; she also suggested having a public hearing, and that the Board should ask for their regulations. K. Forrester stated the Renewable Energy Committee hasn't met for years. K. Durlach, former member, stated the Committee has disbanded. K. Forrester stated she asked the Chairman of the Solar Advisory Committee three times to call a meeting and got no response. P. Lenky stated this Board could schedule a meeting with the Solar Advisory Committee and SHR. N. Lafayette stated his only concern is timing, noting that public hearing(s) will be required, and questioned how that would work. K. Forrester stated the Board would have to ask Attorney St. Onge about the need for a public hearing since the Town is not spending any funds, and we are looking at generating cost savings. He noted that P&Z and IW approvals would be required. N. Lafayette stated he did his homework on that, and that his company is using a local engineering company who knows the Town processes quite well.. He continued, stating the property owner already has topo and IW maps, which will only need to be updated. He stated his company is prepared to go through the required processes. He then stated he is concerned about the April date for the bid and asked if the public hearing(s)/board processes could be done before that date. K. Forrester asked P. Lenky to talk to Attorney St.. Onge about that, to which he (Lenky) responded he would. N. Lafayette stated there is another opportunity on the 2 – 3 acre water treatment plant property which has a building, three tanks and a lot of land and woods that is Town-owned property. He stated the array could be put right on that land if it proves a viable location. P. Lenky stated that property sometimes gets 5' of water during very heavy rains. N. Lafayette asked of the Town owns any other land near it, to which P. Lenky responded the Town owns property across the railroad tracks, behind WPCA. N. Lafayette stated someone could make the argument that it's not private, but public, land so it needs to go to RFP. He continued, stating that, with the Selectmen's permission, he could do a conference call with the director. P. Lenky asked why would CL&P not let the company go across the street, to which N. Lafayette replied CL&P would be losing money with every solar

panel. He stated there are woods around there, behind the plant, and asked about clearing the trees. K. Durlach stated the Trails Committee was working to buy the rail spur to extend the trail, noting there was a grant for that but it never got finalized. N. Lafayette stated he needs to see WPCA's utility bills and, at the very least, get some real numbers so it can be discussed. He stated he would forward the PPA contract to the First Selectman, and would include contact information for two attorneys specializing in this field. K. Forrester asked if there were any local attorneys that could be used, to which N. Lafayette responded he would find out. K. Forrester asked if K. Herbert, Secretary to the Solar Advisory Committee, to call a meeting for next week, to which K. Herbert responded she would be gone next week for 2 ½ weeks. K. Forrester stated she would contact the Chairman. N. Lafayette stated three acres is a megawatt, enough to power the entire school. He stated WPCA is about 1.5 acres. K. Forrester recommended talking to the Waste Water Board, and reiterated she would call a meeting with the Solar Advisory Committee.

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to schedule a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, the Solar Advisory Committee and SHR Energy for Friday, February 20, 2015 at 2:00PM. Carried unanimously.

N. Lafayette asked if it would be possible to get the spreadsheets sooner rather than later, to which K. Forrester stated they would get emailed tomorrow.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Resignations of Andrew Richardson and Sara Laughlin

(M/S/C Smith/Forrester) to accept the resignation of Andrew Richardson.

S. Smith stated the Board thanks Mr. Richardson for his service and asked when an advertisement would be placed. P. Lenky responded that the P&Z Recording Secretary is interested in doing the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. He stated the Town currently has people doing Recording Secretary work for boards and commissions, and if they are not interested an ad will be run in the paper. S. Smith stated she thought an ad should be run, and the position posted in the Town Hall.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: Carried unanimously.

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Sara Laughlin.

S. Smith stated this brings to light the necessity for this Board of Selectmen to look at how it can better support all the boards and commissions; she suggested attending the meetings and brainstorming with them.

P. Lenky stated he asked S. Laughlin to submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen to clarify her resignation regarding memos and emails that were not responded to; S. Laughlin stated she would do that.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: Carried unanimously.

14. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ***on agenda*** **(Limit 3 minutes)**

K. Herbert: Asked why the Town charges the haulers the $500/truck, and asked if it was to recoup for damage caused to roads, to which P. Lenky responded that is the reason. K. Hebert then asked why that permit requirement isn't applied to other trucks, such as oil trucks, etc., to which P. Lenky responded the permit is for haulers to come into town and pick up residential trash. K. Forrester reminded those present that the matter was tabled to next month.

K. Durlach: Stated she is also on the Transfer Station Advisory Committee and she would like the Board to get back to the Committee on the trash haulers permit and why the $500 fee – is it partly the road damage and part of doing business in town. She asked if the Board had cleared the cookie sales with the transfer station regarding safety issues, to which P. Lenky responded that has been done. K. Durlach asked if the Board would like to have members of the Renewable Energy Committee at the Friday meeting, to which P. Lenky responded the Board would.

Wayne O'Brien: He stated oil and propane trucks pay a permit fee to operate in the state, to which P. Lenky responded he would look into that.

Joe Gaucher: He stated, re the oil and gas trucks, if the Town charges them a permit fee they are going to pass that fee onto the customer.

K. Herbert: Stated all trucks have to have DOT stamps and fill out fuel usage, and they pay a portion of the fuel tax to the State they deliver to. She stated that only goes to the state and doesn't help the municipalities.

K. Walsh: Stated he could see K. Forrester's point she was making about concerns the item may be politically driven, but if one takes a look at where the State is taking its municipalities/citizens in regard to consumer protection and the history of FOI, the state is not very active in taking corrective action. He stated he would like to see people who hold public office to really focus in on the openness their citizens are entitled to have. He stated FOI also protects the public officials, noting that K. Forrester was reading letters of resignation and stated more would be received because they are being held accountable where they hadn't been before. He stated transparency is what Thompson residents are looking for.

15. TAX REFUNDS

(M/S/C Forrester/Smith) to approve the Tax Refund for Pamela L. Welcome in the amount of $242.22. Carried unanimously.

16. ADJOURN

(M/S/C Smith/Forrester) to adjourn at 9:07PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning & Development
Interim Recording Secretary

TOWN *of*

THOMPSON

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance

FROM: Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning & Development

DATE: February 11, 2015

SUBJ: Blain Road Footbridge Replacement – $1,000 Funding Request

As members may be aware, the Blain Road Footbridge replacement has been investigated by the Thompson Trails Committee, working with the Planning & Development Department, for a number of years. Design of the bridge is the forefront hurdle, per Army Corps.

After numerous failed requests of educational institutions with Engineering Departments to take on the project, UCONN's Civil Engineering Department has agreed, and its students will perform the required area survey and design plan prep for the project; students will perform the work under the supervision of a Professional Engineer. Howard Epstein, the Department's Head, had indicated to me in January of this year that the Department likes to have projects at least partially sponsored by the recipient; he stated an estimated total project cost of $7,000, and he hoped the Town would be receptive to at least a partial contribution toward that cost.

Karen Durlach, Chairman of the Thompson Trails Committee, spoke with Mr. Epstein last week, and he indicated that sponsorship in the amount of $3,000 would be appreciated, but that he'd be appreciative of whatever amount the Town was willing to contribute. It is respectfully requested that the Board of Selectmen support this Department's request for, and that the Board of Finance appropriate, $1,000 toward the surveying and design portion of the project. Ms. Durlach indicated to me that she would bring up at the next Trails Committee meeting the possibility of that Committee also contributing some funds toward the sponsorship.

Per Catherine St. Andre, USACE, design would cost $20,000 - $30,000 were ACE to do the work, and it currently does not have funds available to put toward that project. Given, that cost could be reduced to the $5,000 range if a local engineer were hired, and paid, by the Town to do the work; however, not only would it be a savings to the Town for the students to complete the engineering portion of the project, it would also be the first step to bringing the project to fruition and a valuable learning experience for the students, under the supervision of professionals.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, P.O. Box 899 NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255
TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 x130 · FAX (860) 923-9897

As an aside, Mr. Epstein said to me that he is interested in larger trails projects for his students as well.

BACKGROUND:
This is a project that was included in the Handover Documents received when I started; however, there was no detail provided, other than "active with high priority; no funding currently", and no file for the project existed. Through research, and discussions with Karen Durlach, Chairman of the Thompson Trails Committee, and Ed Greenough, US Army Corps of Engineers, the following was found:

The Army Corps had to remove the bridge in around 2011 because of safety issues, and they would like it rebuilt. It is, as well, extremely important to our trails system here in Thompson. The bridge design is the forefront hurdle. Two of the abutments are unusable; new abutments will be needed, farther out than the existing abutments, on solid ground, and the easterly side is the problem re erosion. New approaches will also be necessary. The new bridge will need to be raised above flood stage to allow high water debris to flow under the bridge without hitting and damaging it, with ACE determining the safest lowest elevation. ACE is looking for the bridge to be a 6' w bridge, with pedestrian/bicycle access only, and the length dependant on abutment placement. ACE would like to keep it less than 100' (the previous bridge was approximately 13'w x 54'l). The area survey is the first step, and some design-build can be done from that; ACE has also indicated that Army Corps is looking to replace the bridge with a pre-fab bridge similar in design to the Continental pedestrian truss bridge on the following link: http://www.conteches.com/products/bridges-and-structures/truss/continental-pedestrian-bridge.aspx. Mr. Greenough reiterated that the abutment designs are the main issue.

For Members' information, Mr.Greenough informed me that other work would include purchase of the replacement bridge for which, he stated, ACE has the funds, and installation, which he stated could be done by Army Reservists.

It is understood that a number of critical items are before the Boards for support and for funding; however, this investment, should the request be approved, would be a substantial benefit to the Town, and to its residents and visitors.

Thank you in advance for your favorable actions.

:MAC

Rec'd 1-17-15

Freedom of Information Act Annual Pledge

(To be signed by elected officials and department heads of the town hall)

WHEREAS, in 1975, a unanimous General Assembly joined Governor Ella T. Grasso to adopt the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, promising that government at every level - schools, towns, cities and the state – conduct virtually all of the public's business in the open

WHEREAS, the Freedom of Information Act guarantees every resident the right to understand what his or her government is doing and to have ready access to the work of that government

WHEREAS, our FOI laws promote confidence in government and assure government is accountable to the people

WHEREAS, supporting said laws in the town of Thompson will further develop the municipality's transparency and accountability and will support opportunities for innovation and economic development

THEREFORE, I, _____, will support and protect Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act, including the independence of the state's unique Freedom of Information Commission, and oppose weakening it. If proposals are made to limit public access, I will, within my authority, assure such proposals are subjected to public processes, including public hearings, and will support such changes only when the public's interest in non-access to records or proceedings clearly outweighs the public's interest in access. I further commit to support transparency to increase accountability, promote informed public participation and expand access to information.

_____

_____

Signature Date

- BOS MEETING FEB 17. 2015 -

Ken Beausoleil

Joseph H Goucher

KEVIN WALSH

Ray Faucher

Linda Jarmolewicz

Wayne O'Brien

Kathleen Herbert

Addison Weinstein

Karen Durfee