

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES October 7, 2019, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinkas, Mike Lageunesse, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski; Paul Provost; Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek; Joe Iamartino, THS; Ken Butkiewicz; Nancy Santerre, Gretchen & Matt Savaria

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall.

Lucille volunteered to moderate. Motion made to accept minutes of August 5, 2019. All in favor.

Finances: Currently available \$14,781.65. [plus some Turkey Trot sponsor funds, but bills expected.]

Citizen's Comments:

- Ken Butkiewicz reported French River Bridge completed on Quinebaug River Rail Trail; research on CT section turned up reports of 2 contaminated sites, explaining why Mass. did not purchase
- Nancy Santerre brought up questions about who is responsible for Air Line Trail maintenance (see discussion below)

Events:

- **Community Day:** attended by John, Brian, Lucille & Charlie, some doing double duty with other organizations; day deemed a success; comments about need to update our display & handouts
- **Turkey Trot Nov. 10, 2019:** Thompson Speedway is new "Timing Sponsor." Some other new sponsors; some old sponsors needing re-contact; NEXT MEETING Oct. 15
- Cyclocross March 29, 2020—Charlie to act as contact (same folks holding another bike event in Thompson Nov. 23)

T-shirts: Can be sold at Community Garden event Oct. 19

Need to reorder after inventory taken. Trails Comm. will fund additional Train Wreck shirts as well.

CT Trail Census: Counter recording 900+/-month at East Thompson/New Rd. site. June surveys sent in.

Trail updates:

- Air Line Trail: The brush growing up along the trail from Sand Dam Rd to Mechanicsville (and especially Sunset Hill south to 193) is taking over the trail and is beyond the capabilities of our hand tools and equipment. It really needs to be mowed with the larger over-the-fence mower. Contact DPW Rich Benoit to ask if it would be possible for someone on staff to do a pass through the trail on a Saturday with the town equipment, if the Trails Committee paid for the overtime and the fuel. Would DEEP be willing to pay for this?
- Charlie presented compilation of ideas for a master plan for Thompson section of Air Line Trail including Train Wreck self-guided tour, bridges, tunnels and downtown access, etc. Suggestion to break down into Easy & Longer Term Phases. Concept drawings need some additions. Funding needed to turn concepts into useable engineering plans.
- Tri-State Marker has been vandalized by someone painting the top of the stone marker. May be restored with wire brush or heat gun?

Grants

- National Park Service Technical Assistance Grant submitted. Notice expected early Nov.
- TLGV grant awarded for Wayfinding Program for planning & signage design; Tyra to administer and enlist additional funding sources (in conjunction with Trails, EDC and THS)

MOTION: *Mike moved, seconded by Charlie, that the Trails Committee vote in favor of moving forward with this grant. All in favor.*

Social Media/PR

- Brian posting sponsors on Turkey Trot Facebook page
- John updating Trails Facebook page; about 600 followers
& Instagram about 70 followers

Reports from neighboring towns

- 12-Town Task Force has not met again and Charlie has had no notices.
- Putnam Trails Committee has met; pulled out of Task Force. We need to ask what route they are planning for connecting to Thompson

Other business

- Paul made a request for assistance providing Train Wreck flyers for kiosks and on-site programs.

MOTION: Charlie made a motion, seconded by John, to spend up to \$250 to print/fold Train Wreck flyers. All in favor.

- Invitation to Presentation: Jason Newton and THS present: **The Old CT Path Story**

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2019 7:00 pm, Thompson Library

(Note: Path passes through WLT Bull Hill preserve)

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, December 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 p.m.