

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES June 6, 2016, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, Mike Lajeunesse, Lucille Langlois, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Rob Paton; Nancy Lamontagne; David Barber; Brian & Colleen Loffredo
The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Lucille volunteered to be moderator. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Rob, to accept the minutes of May 2; motion carried. Agenda corrected to reflect accurate meetings dates.

Correspondence:

- Thompson Community Day scheduled for Sept. 25
- Charlie received the Griswold study on the benefits of trails to economic development
- Mike received several “thank you” notes for hosting CT Trails Day event

Finances: No changes

*** Thompson Trails Committee awarded the CT Greenways Volunteer Committee Award; Mike & Charlie attended ceremony 6/3; made some good contacts; Nancy Lamontagne to compile a press release

Partners:

- Girl Scout troop 65520 under leader Cynthia Lancelot is interested in stewarding the Quaddick State Park Red Trail and LeClair; adding geocaching and a fall ribbon cutting ceremony discussed
- Boy Scout troop 66 & leader Doug Wolfram committed to maintaining Orange Trail, Red Bridge to Brickyard

Citizen’s Comments: David Barber interested in rail trail connections. Brian & Colleen Loffredo interested in horse riding access and possibly stewarding a section of Airline Trail

Mapping: GIS data has been collected for all trails. Mike made a motion, seconded by Charlie to spend up to \$300 for Jim Larkin at NECCOG to turn our data into maps. Discussed types of maps and future uses: map packets, web, brochures, interactive with phones, Google maps, etc. Tie in with Economic Development Commission and local businesses. On-road bike routes and road connections between trailheads.

Events

- May 9 presentation on Thompson trails at the Library deemed a success
- Mike, Charlie & Karen participated in the Thompson Road Safety Audit with state and local officials; report to come from engineering team; trail access included in discussions
- Mike & Charlie led hike to Tri-State Marker for CT Trails Day 6/4; 18 participants from RI, Western Mass., Boston, other CT regions
- Charlie organizing a rail trail bike rally for Oct. 8; with 4 teams of bike riders coming from RI, Willimantic, Sturbridge and Franklin converging on Rotary Park in Putnam between noon & 3pm, with additional festivities in the park

- 2016 Turkey Trot Nov.13 planning on schedule; past sponsors being contacted; sub-committee discussed earmarking some of monies raised for particular trails projects

Trail Updates:

- DEEP Laurie Giannotti indicated there are still Airline funds allocated for materials that can be used to purchase lumber, etc. for Ithiel Towne bridge; that Ellis tech could provide labor for fabrication and we could do assembly. Get specifications of prefab bridge.
- Airline: Highway Dpt. Working on a plan for stonedust application. Discussion of ways we can help, ie removing leaves when they know which section they will start on; discussion of possibly allocating funds for workers, either town or private contractor; Goal of having a “ribbon cutting” in fall after stonedust applied
- Blain Bridge design plans with USACE; Ken B. first selectman & Rep. Joe Courtney working on getting review expedited
- Wilsonville boat launch: UCONN final plans not yet submitted to Town
- Easy connection possible between Quaddick Red Trail and LeClair. WLT okayed. Karen to contact DEEP (scott.dawley@ct.gov) about Quaddick trail.
- French River easement north of K of C: bench cut looked okay; check again in fall

Connectivity:

Charlie networking with numerous groups interested in the connections to trails in other towns; bike routes; closing the gaps; completing Airline into Putnam (Church St. or RR spur...?)

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, August 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Lucille made a motion, seconded by Rob, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.