

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES August 1, 2016, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Mike Lajeunesse, Lucille Langlois, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Rob Paton; Tom Ayau, David Barber; Nancy Lamontagne; Brian Loffredo, Marie Mongeau, Don Pimental,

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Lucille volunteered to be moderator. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Rob, to accept the minutes of June 6; motion carried. Finances: No changes. Partners: no reports.

Correspondence:

- Thompson Community Day is Sept. 25 (John will distribute our maps at TLGV table.)
- Emails between Charlie, Mike & others, including state officials, about Airline Trail
- Karen submitted response to a request for material for the “Selectmen’s Update”
- Draft of “Thompson Road Safety Audit” received (forwarded to members attached to Agenda email)

Citizen’s Comments: Don Pimental reported he shall appeal Wetlands Com. decision on Starr Rd. designation, which is back in the hands of Selectmen.

Events

- WALKTOBER: John leading 1) Oct. 1, 9am kayak N. Grosvenordale Pond to Wilsonville, followed by hike on new trail along easement; 2) Oct. 9, 9am, 8-mile Orange Trail hike, Cheney Rd. to Red Bridge Rd.
- 2016 Turkey Trot Nov.13 planning on schedule; sponsorships surpassing last year; volunteers may be needed to pick up some of the tasks previously handled by Rec. Dpt.
- Charlie organizing “Rolling Rail Trails Rally” for Oct. 8; (4 teams of bike riders coming from RI, Willimantic, Sturbridge and Franklin converging in Putnam)
- possible late fall ribbon cutting ceremony with Girl Scout troop 65520 under leader Cynthia Lancelot on LeClair trail

Trail Updates:

- Airline: Thompson Highway Dpt. applied stone dust from Mechanicsville parking to 193. Need accounting of hours worked for DEEP. Sandam Rd. to culvert needs grading before stone dust can be applied. Abutments of missing bridge behind condos to be assessed this fall; prefab bridge to follow.
- Blain Bridge: Rep. Joe Courtney encouraging USACE for some action
- pre-hike/maintenance of N. Grosvenordale Pond River Walk north of K of C before Walktober event

Maps, brochures, web, etc: Jim Larkin at NECCOG emailed that GIS trail data collected looks okay. Discussed types of maps and future uses. John posting updates to Facebook page; over 200 “friends.” Web page sub-committee meeting needed. Get QR codes that could send smartphone users to web page or directly to maps.

Connectivity:

Charlie continues networking with groups interested in bike routes & closing the gaps between town trail systems. October 8 bike rally involves several organizations.

David Barber reported on SNETT progress in Mass. Also vandalism problems and solutions. He shared with us his initial drafts of Airline Trail brochures we can edit and get printed. David B. also sent a suggested alternative route to connect Thompson & Putnam that Karen will forward to the Committee. Research on plot ownership is ongoing.

Motion by Rob, seconded by Charlie, to buy three 2-pack (=6) Outdoor Tri-fold Brochure Holders for Airline Trail kiosks. All in favor.

Other Business: discussion of ATV incursions on trails; geocaching

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, October 3, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Charlie made a motion, seconded by Lucille, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm.