

## Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES December 5, 2016, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, Mike Lajeunesse, Lucille Langlois, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Rob Paton; David Barber; Scott Benoit; Ken Butkiewicz; Delpha Very  
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 October 3; motion carried.

### **Correspondence:**

- notice from Town Planner about DEEP Recreational Trails Grants proposals
- Selectmen's office requested submission for next "Selectmen's Update"
- reports of encampment on N. Grosv. Pond trail behind Knights forwarded to First Selectman
- misc. emails on trail conditions (see below)

**Finances:** Tentative report on Turkey Trot shows approx. \$1700 for Trails and Rec. Dpt. and over \$3400 for TEEG. Some bills not in yet.

### **DEEP Recreational Trails Grants** Deadline Dec. 15

Possible proposals to be discussed with Town Planner:

- 1) Trail equipment & tools (Rob to research)
- 2) Handicapped trail access; needs engineering study ?
- 3) Wilsonville boat launch materials
- 4) Land purchase of unused rail bed

**CT Trails Census program:** Trail use counter installed on the Air Line Trail near Lowell Davis crossing; Trails Committee members will be monitoring in conjunction with Aaron Budris (of NVCOG, in partnership with UCONN) who will be maintaining counter and collecting data.

### **Events**

- TLGV announcement: "First Day" event Sunday, noon Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for bike, hike, snowshoe, skis, etc. on the Air Line Trail; meeting at 121 Riverside Drive (RT. 12, Mechanicsville or E. Thompson & New Rd. intersection; free; all ages
- WALKTOBER: Oct. 9 cancelled due to weather conditions
- 2016 Turkey Trot: successful event and thanks for great volunteer support; next Trot Committee meeting Dec. 12; 2017 Trot probably 11/12/17

**Connectivity:** Delpha Very, of Putnam Economic & Community Development Committee, joined us for discussion on how to move forward with completing the Air Line Trail connection between Thompson & Putnam. She will set up the next meeting to include several other interested parties, to discuss route options.

### **Trail Updates:**

- several reports on construction activity near the missing bridge (Air Line)
- report of deterioration on smaller bridge and loose planks (Air Line)

- Blain Bridge: Rep. Joe Courtney encouraging USACE for action

**Maps, brochures, web, etc:** revised brochure being prepared to share with Economic Development commission to solicit sponsors for printing costs.

**Reports from neighboring towns:**

- Ken Butkiewicz shared reports on completed trail development of the “Quinebaug River Bikeway (Rail Trail)” from West Dudley at the CT border in Quinebaug into Southbridge and in Dudley to the Thompson line near New Boston Rd. The description of the years of work on construction, signage, maps, bench installations, etc. inspired & encouraged us all.
- David Barber reported on the completion of the Uxbridge/Blackstone/Millville project with 3.5 miles of asphalt, 8 bridges, plus 1 tunnel.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, February 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Rob made a motion, seconded by David, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.