

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES December 2, 2019, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Mike Lageunesse, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Amy St. Onge; LyAnn Graff, TLGV

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall.

Charlie volunteered to moderate. Motion made to accept minutes of October 7, 2019. All in favor.

Correspondence: Reminder to attend Old CT Path lecture 12/4 at Library; Requests from Selectmen's office for 2020 meeting dates (**Feb. 3, April 6, June 1, August 3, Oct. 5, Dec. 7**), text for Thompson Annual Report and Selectmen's Update (copies distributed) and instructions on how to sign up for Town alerts, etc.; holiday greetings from TLGV; invitation to fill out Kubota survey; request to attend joint meeting with Branding, Ag & Rec. either Jan. 2 or 9, 2020; email from DPW saying they will try to get to trail brush removal; email from Town Planner that we were approved for grant providing NPS help with Train Wreck park; Northeastern Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Survey invitation; NECCOG has trail counters available to borrow

Finances: No current update.

Citizen's Comments:

- LyAnn shared very sad news that Ken Butkiewicz died last week; reminded us to take NECCOG survey; that Putnam Trails Committee meeting is next week 12/10

Grants:

- Questions & discussion after Karen made a motion, seconded by Paul: *"Motion to encumber \$6,000 from the Thompson Trails Committee funds toward fulfilling requirements for TLGV grant "Traveling Through Thompson: Directional and Interpretive Signage to Protect & Promote Thompson's Historical and Cultural Resources." All in favor.*

Visit & Share fundraising site: <https://ioby.org/project/traveling-through-thompson>

- Tyra received notice that we were approved for grant providing NPS help with Train Wreck site, although official paperwork is delayed, and she will be contacted when they are ready to set up a site visit.

Events:

- **Turkey Trot 2019:** Some expenses increased and there were less participants (possibly due to conflicting events), but fundraising reached a record level, thanks in part to Thompson Speedway as the new "Timing Sponsor." The kids "Fun Run" was a good addition and will get more emphasis next year. Feedback and many ideas for next year under consideration. Thanks to committee members, volunteers and the Rec. dept. for all their help.
- Cyclocross March 29, 2020—Trails Com. should have a table at event with maps and information on local attractions.

T-shirts: Charlie will quantify what we have bought and sold already and propose a motion to purchase additional shirts at the next meeting. Look into taking orders on web page.

CT Trail Census: Counter at East Thompson/New Rd. site had to be repositioned. Request made for another intercept survey: we should schedule in conjunction with an upcoming event.

Trail updates:

- Air Line Trail: Discussion on cart bridge and Train Wreck site.

DPW Rich Benoit wrote that he would try to have DPW worker mow brush growing up along the trail from Sand Dam Rd to Mechanicsville (and especially Sunset Hill south to 193). Paul reported 2 large trees down across trail between Sand Dam Rd and 193. Karen will contact DEEP Matt Quinn.

- Report by WLT that LeClair Trail bridge flooded by beaver dam construction and also needs a lot of brush cutting. In spring, need to coordinate with WLT for spring clean-up & assessment of bridge.
- Paul checks weekly and replenishes self-guided tour brochures of Train Wreck site at New Rd./East Thompson Rd. kiosk

Outreach/Social Media/PR

- Jim Larkin/NECCOG finalizing 2 missing contour maps, which will be added to web; replacement reprint of large town-wide trail map coming.
- Charlie will contact “All Trails” about including our maps.

Reports from neighboring towns

- Brian. Lucille, Karen attended Putnam Trails Committee meeting. Their focus is finishing Air Line Trail connections with Thompson and Pomfret. No other trails in Putnam.
Next meeting Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:00pm, Putnam Town Hall.
- Find new contact person in neighboring Mass. towns.

Agends items for next meeting:

revisit goal list for 2020
compile Trails wish list for inclusion in signage design project
NPS/THS/Train Wreck site project
new method for tracking Volunteer hours & expenses

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, February 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.