

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES February 3, 2020, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, Lucille Langlois, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Pat Cheever, Joe Iamartino, Jake Keyes, Pete Mitus; Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner; Lesley Munshower, Thompson Recreation Director; Lyann Graff, TLGV; Angela Kneeland, Putnam Trails Committee; Matt Quinn, DEEP

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Lucille volunteered to moderate. *(Regular meeting was preceded by an extended sub-committee meeting with Stephanie Stroud and Elizabeth Brown of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, Daniel Blanchette of J&D Engineering, and Tom Chase to discuss "Thompson CT - More Than Just a Train Wreck" project. Future meetings will be announced, probably monthly on 1st Mondays, for anyone interested in helping with this project.)*

Citizen's Comments:

- Jake Keyes made a presentation on a proposed Regional Park Ranger Program that would provide for uniformed staffing authorized to enforce ordinances and statutes on Town-owned park properties, hopefully to start July 1, 2020. As a possibly multi-town partnership, he has discussed with Putnam, NECCOG, TLGV, and Thompson First Selectman St. Onge. More information will be forwarded about options and grant funding to Committee members and discussed at April meeting.
- Pat Cheever shared photo of unexplained hay manger in woods
- Pete Mitus is interested in helping maintain Thompson Trails. Questions raised about need for more signage, in particular Tamler Preserve.

Motion made to accept minutes of December 2, 2019. All in favor.

Finances: All revenue in for 2019 Turkey Trot: \$9,005.18 raised, which is higher than 2018. Contribution to TEEG will be \$4,502.

Volunteer Hours: tracking sheets distributed and are to be turned in at each meeting.

T-shirts: Discussion on colors, quantities, style and purpose. ***Motion made by Charlie, seconded by Lucille, to spend up to \$1500 to replenish long-sleeved shirts in both colors in those sizes that are lacking.*** Wording on orange shirts to be changed to eliminate the word "committee."

Grants:

- Train Wreck site: earlier sub-committee meeting with NPS discussed help NPS could provide and "Vision, Mission, Goals, Opportunities, Obstacles" and defined stakeholders and partners going forward (separate minutes to come)
- Wayfinding project will be discussed at Branding meeting Wednesday 2/5 with CME present. Enough funds were raised through ioby and Sustainable CT.
- "Twelve Town Taskforce" upcoming meeting Feb. 20 in Hebron.

CT Trail Census: Intercept surveys need to be scheduled this spring; probably with June 6-7 CT Trails Day plus some earlier weekend.

Events:

- Cyclocross March 29, 2020
- **June CT Trails Day/TLGVSpring Outdoors:** Charlie to firm up dates with John— Tri-State Marker hike and tour of Train Wreck site with THS; order 1 accessible porto-potty
- **Turkey Trot 2020:** date to be confirmed, either 11/8/20 or 11/15/20

Trail updates:

- Air Line Trail: Matt Quinn reported downed trees removed by DEEP; Thompson DPW mowed worst brush section Sand Dam to Lowell Davis. Question: when will stonedust be completed Sand Dam to state line?

NOTE: Laurie Giannotti will be retiring April 1. Direct Air Line Trail problems/questions to Brian Wilson plus CC Matt Quinn.

Reports from neighboring towns

- Putnam Trails Committee met 1/28/20; scheduled site-walk of possible RT. 12 connector to Thompson scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17 starting at Thompson water treatment plant. Weather dependent. Time to be announced.
- Note: G&W railroad has been bought. No contact person yet known.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:41 p.m.