

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday October 5, 2020, 7:00pm via the Zoom online platform

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Lyann Graff, TLGV; Rec Dir. Lesley Munshower, Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Lucille made a MOTION, seconded by Brian, to accept minutes of August 3, 2020. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- Request for 2021 meeting dates. Consensus to keep to first Mondays of alternating months.

Volunteer Hours: Approximately 513 hours reported, about 50 less than previous year, with less time spent on events, being replaced by increased outreach and social media time

Finances: Balance available 10/5/20: \$17,559.35

Citizens' Comments: Lyann reported TLGV has assessed the Thompson leg of ALT except for overgrown section between Sand Dam and Lowell Davis roads

Events:

- **Turkey Trot 2020:** Consensus reached that, given this late date, lack of committed venue and complications of Covid guidelines, there will be no November race. Title sponsor Putnam Bank will be notified. Discussion to consider rescheduling a race to early June, coinciding with CT Trails Day, maybe creating Trails Weekend or Trails Week event. Research to continue on dates of other regional events and location options.
- John did a Tri State Marker hike with Rotary Club

PoCD: Karen is compiling Trails section of Thompson 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development. First draft sent out received some corrections to be incorporated before submitting to Planner. Zoom meeting for discussion October 14. Final inputs due BEFORE Dec. 7 Trails meeting.

Trail updates:

- **MOTION made by Karen, seconded by John, to extend rental of port-o-john through Octobre or Veteraens Day. ALL IN FAVOR.** (Charlie will see if extension can go through Veterans Day.) Facility reported to be well-maintained and no vandalism issues. Proposal to rent again next year April to November.
- John has a loan of equipment that will enable him to mow the overgrown section between Sanddam and Lowell Davis roads this fall. He has already been doing Air Line maintenance of downed limbs but there are some overhanging broken trees branches that need to be reported to DEEP.
- pedestrian crosswalks and signs in both directions installed by DPW at East Thompson Road and at Sand Dam trail crossings. Repaint of N. Grosv. River Walk crossing on Buckley Hill.
- Sand Dam parking issues can be addressed if some boulders can be moved
- Trespass issues by owner of landlocked parcel between Butlers and Rod & Gun Club; told no permission for logging trucks by abutters; trucks would have to cross Air Line Trail. Tyra will alert Matt Quinn, DEEP. Town may have no jurisdiction unless wetlands impacted.
- Charlie still trying to find out if more stone dust is available
- East Coast Greenway received official designation of Thompson ALT as a "connector trail"

Train Wreck Site Project:

Working Group Meeting Sept 30 (see those minutes) included introduction to UCONN student team.
Tyra & NPS assembling material for Nov.10, 2020, 7:00 pm **public webinar**; 1 hour plus Q&A;

CT Trail Census

Counter data: July 1,002 more users than previous year, August 801 more, Sept. 1,421 more

Equipment:

John has had Kubota out on trail; reports running well; will winterize

Trailer needed must have 6'6" door; John to get quotes

Official Trails logo decal/sticker needed for Kubota, eventually for a trailer

Social Media/PR/maps

- recent article in *Hampton Gazette* included ALT Thompson section
- Charlie has ALT brochures to resupply Rec. Office and kiosks; working with Town social media intern Mike Troy to edit and resize ALT brochure down to more cost-effective dimension of 8.5" x11"
- Tyra reported Z-card map project funded by 7 towns and almost ready to go for grant funding to ERTD for design and digital tie-ins; towns' match funds cover printing; Thompson will end up with 6,000 maps for promotional use; needs Trails input (as well as EDC & Branding) on what will be featured on flip-side (complete Air Line Trail map on reverse)
- Town social media intern Mike Troy doing a post every Thursday on one of Thompson's Trails
- Facebook getting lots of views; Town intern available to assist

Other

- Charlie will be sending link to drone video
- Charlie will be sending link to Map Geo and his proposed bike routes

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

Meeting adjourned 8:41 p.m.

NOTE: *Train Wreck public webinar Tuesday, November 10.*