

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

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

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost, Pat Cheever; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Rec. Dir. Lesley Munshower, Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; NPS Stephanie Stroud; Ken Pickren; Bruce Woodis

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

Charlie made a MOTION, seconded by Brian, to accept minutes of October 5, 2020. All in favor.

Changes to Agenda: bike infrastructure grant discussion added to New Business

Finances: Balance available 12/7/20: \$17,395.73 LESS invoices to be processed for port-o-john, PLUS \$40 for t-shirts

Charlie reported recent damage to port-o-john. He and Lesley will both contact company for its removal.

T-Shirts: Lesley reported selling about 29 shirts since Makers Fair. In-stock inventory is sufficient.

Recreation has them hanging on display outside office and has been selling them, taking cash or checks.

Question tabled as to whether charge cards will be accepted, until Recreation decides on credit card vendor and their card servicing fees.

Discussion tabled about making t-shirts to include new Town logo, until official logo rollout.

2021 Meeting Dates: 1st Mondays: February 1, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, December 6

Citizens' Comments: LyAnn reported TLGV has posted the assessed Thompson sections of ALTSP to the TLGV website

Train Wreck site park project:

- Stephanie reported on Nov.10 public workshop findings: about 30 participants, good mix of ages, positive feedback from DEEP Laurie Giannotti; popular ideas with participants included "Windows to the Past" signage, port-o-johns, creating replica of the old depot for the pavilion
- DECEMBER 17, 7:00 pm: Next planning group meeting, including UCONN engineering students semester report
- schedule a working group meeting for January

Trail updates:

- Bruce Woodis of KWP Assoc., representing Hal Merrick, landowner of property at the end of Plum Rd. explained current discussions: to get building permit Merricks must extend and improve Plum Road. He would like to retain his privacy but willing to discuss options for public access to the ALT for bikes and pedestrians, but not for parking. Suggestions include "NO Vehicle Parking" signs at the end of road and on-trail signs/kiosk directing trail users how to get to downtown & Rt. 12, to establish a single access route. Charlie reported there are parking options offered by the liquor store on Rt. 12/Plum Rd. corner. Other options to be explored.
- John and Ken Pickren of Southbridge Trails are strategizing best methods to re-blaze the Tri State Marker Trail with more permanent blazes. Ken is also working on a grant to map and create signage to consolidate the three states' trails in that area.

Motion made by Karen, seconded by Lucille to spend up to \$100 for materials needed (flashing, paint, etc.) to complete blazing. Motion carried.

Motion made by Karen, seconded by Charlie to send letter of support from Thompson Trails Committee for the grant proposal Ken Pickren is submitting. Motion carried.

- John also mentioned the North Grosvenordale River Walk extension along N. Grosvenordale Pond needs yellow blazing redone.
- Charlie is researching & coordinating plans with WLT for Bull Hill parking on the Thompson side
- Karen, David, Tyra & Amy St. Onge met with USACE about some positive steps forward toward construction of a new Blain Bridge
- The WLT LeClair Trail is currently closed. Karen is looking into what needs to happen to reopen and will see if a site walk can be arranged
- Karen, David & Lucille attended the tree dedication in honor of Ken Butkiewicz and all the work he did to build the Quinebaug River Bikeway. Karen has brought up the issue with Selectmen Amy St. Onge about acquiring an easement on the CT section of the old railbed to unite the Dudley-Southbridge trail segments.

2021 Goals: The Trails Committee (Karen & Charlie) has contributed to the currently being written Town PoCD (10-Year Plan of Conservation & Development) with what could be considered Trail's general and ongoing goals. New ideas and more specific immediate goals for 2021 should be submitted for discussion at the February meeting.

Events:

- **Turkey Trot 2021:** Consensus reached that November should remain the target for the next race.
- Spring Outdoors (March 19-June 21) and CT Trails Day should be planned at Feb. meeting

Equipment:

John to get quotes for enclosed trailer that will fit Kubota and tools

Social Media/PR/maps

- Lesley would like us to fold the Turkey Trot Facebook page into the Trails Facebook page. John and Brian to be administrators.
- Color map brochures printed this year for the ALT are all gone. Charlie is looking at how to reduce artwork to 8.5 x 11" size for next printing.
- Tyra reported RCD match funds for the Z-fold map project coming in from the 7 towns involved.

Reports from neighboring towns

- Pat McGarrah (Putnam bike shop) providing seed money to start a Dudley trails committee.
- Pomfret is looking at starting a trails committee.
- There has been no 12-Town Task Force meetings. Tyra in contact with Jean Davis regularly.

Other Business

Lesley shared new "people for bikes" bike infrastructure grant guidelines. "Letter of Interest" due Jan. 22. See

<https://peopleforbikes.org/grant-guidelines/>

Send project ideas to Tyra.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, February 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Possible SPECIAL MEETING in January to discuss trailer.

Charlie made a motion, John seconded, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:33 p.m.

NOTE: Train Wreck Park working group Zoom meeting Tuesday, December 17. 7pm