

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, February 1, 2021, 7:00 pm 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; NPS Stephanie Stroud, Elizabeth Brown, Mallory Zink; UCONN Joshua Conner, Shallini Shial; Sylvia Ounpuu, Bike Walk Bolton

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Lucille volunteered to moderate.

Charlie made a MOTION, seconded by John, to accept minutes of December 7, 2020 and January 11, 2021. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- John received invitation to Feb. 15, 9:30-10:30 Zoom meeting for previous leaders of CT Trails Day events
- Karen received request for submission to Thompson annual report from Trails Committee

Train Wreck site park project:

- Stephanie introduced Mallory Zink, new NPS historian that will be tasked to help with efforts around signage and interpretation for the train wreck site
- Stephanie asked Committee who could offer input on enlisting local youth with the next phase of community engagement; Lesley & John will offer ideas
- Joshua Conner reported the UCONN group's semester work started about 2 weeks ago; begins with written reports, then schematics on the parking area in March/April; semester ends in early May
- 1:00 NPS call with Tyra scheduled for 2/2

Trailer:

- Registration & Insurance: Trailer would be registered by the Town, so there is no registration fee; Selectmen decided the Town will cover the annual insurance, since it is under the Town policy. Since it will be purchased through the town, there will be no sales tax.
- John shared revised quote from Hazard Marine of \$6,104.50 for a special order (special order required for 7 foot height.) Diamond Cargo Mfg 7x16 enclosed trailer for transportation and storage of Kubota and tools. Price now includes orange exterior paint, .030 gauge exterior skin, rear stabilizer jacks for loading, four D-rings for interior tie-down, spare tire & carrier.

Charlie made a MOTION, seconded by Lucille, to purchase the described enclosed trailer. All in favor. Predicted delivery 10-12 weeks. John will request an invoice and find out how much down payment is needed.

- Airbrush Shack offered to make decals of logos.
- Discussion about mower attachment.
- Continue discussion on crowdfunding at April meeting. Lesley and Brian will draft thank you letters to past sponsors of Turkey Trot and emphasize how their support enables equipment purchases to maintain trails.

Trail updates:

- John has materials to re-blaze the Tri State Marker Trail with more permanent blazes. Paul volunteered to help with cutter & punch. Discussion of the North Grosvenordale River Walk extension along N. Grosvenordale Pond that needs blazing and how that should fit into downtown wayfinding signage.

- John reported on boulders and “no trespass” signs blocking a spur trail off the Tri State Marker Trail that is probably on town land. A **site walk** is needed to confirm boundaries with recently purchased properties.
- Increased trail use and **limited parking space** at Sand Dam Rd ALT access is creating **safety issues**. Moving rocks back, & adding fill, to enlarge parking area will keep cars & hikers out of roadway.
- ***ACTION ITEM:** submit requests by 2/15/21 to Lesley for DPW spring work, to compile for Kelley, to bring to Rich and Selectmen
- other issues include ATV abuse, parking at Lowell Davis access point, stone dust erosion between Lowell Davis & 395 overpass, unleashed dog

Events:

- **CT Trails Day:** John willing to lead activity but needs COVID guidelines for June; Feb. 15, 9:30-10:30 Zoom meeting for previous leaders
- **TLGV Spring Outdoors:** submit ideas for activities to be listed ASAP; events March 19-June 21
- **Turkey Trot 2021:** Brian & Lesley to begin discussions soon for a “Plan B” in case the Dam is not available by November
- RiMaConn August 29th

Social Media/PR/maps

- Paul is refilling Train Wreck flyers every week; has about 50 left. Asks if we can print a black & white map? Charlie & Lesley will look at how to reduce artwork on ALT color brochure to 8.5 x 11” size for next printing. Charlie has edits to text first.
- Z-fold map project will not be ready for spring.

Trail Census: Charlie will share link to latest 2020 data.

Increased trail use since COVID evidenced by parked cars noted at all ALT access. Point out to Selectmen that our trails are not just for residents but bring visitors to Thompson.

Reports from neighboring towns

- There has been no 12-Town Task Force meetings.
- Sylvia Ounpuu from Bike Walk Bolton noted they are dealing with many similar issues

Other Business

Lesley will share her research into port-o-john vendors. Charlie will talk to Earthworks about seasonal pricing, & bundling with other town usage. Vote in April on when to start placement of ADA accessible unit.

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:58 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 5, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: Train Wreck Park working group Zoom meeting Wednesday, February 17, 1:00 pm