

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES  
Monday, October 4, 2021, 7:00 pm

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Mike Lajeunesse, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; LyAnn Graff, TLGV

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on Zoom. Lucille moderated.

*Karen made a MOTION, seconded by John, to accept minutes of August 2, 2021. All in favor.*

**Correspondence:**

- email from Master Gardener Monique Dutram withdrawing from project
- request by Town Clerk for 2022 meeting dates. We will reserve room for the usual 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays in February, April, June, August, October, December, & add May, July & September where possible
- survey card from Senator Chris Murphy
- invitation to TLGV Tastes of the Valley
- citizen complaint, via Town website, about spectator congestion & parking issues at ALTSP East Thompson Rd. intersection. Karen responded with assurances we are working on this problem

**Finances:** Balance as of 9/27/21: \$6,471.84

Since: \$1,283 paid out for t-shirts, \$145 for keys/locks for Trailer; \$100 Earthworks; plus \$831 in income from T-shirt sales and donations—leaves approx. \$5,773

**Trailer/Mower Status:**

- still needed: straps to tie down equipment in the trailer, mower hitch, oil & gas consumables
- DPW has key to hitch to move trailer if needed but NOT key to get in trailer
- Meet 9:00 am Oct. 23 at Paul's to measure and determine how to mount & secure tools inside trailer & how to hook up mower.

***MOTION made by Charlie, seconded by Brian to spend up to \$250 for hardware/parts needed to install storage system for tools in trailer. All in favor.*** Any additional actions needed on this project can be shared with committee members at November Turkey Trot.

**Events:**

- **RiMaConn Relay Race** August 28; Charlie & John volunteered; reported heavy traffic at East Thompson Rd. exchange point and need for more help next time
  - **Oct. 3 Train Wreck site park project** deemed success; high attendance and supportive public
  - **Walktober:** John leading hike Oct. 16 to Tri State marker and arched culvert
  - **Turkey Trot Nov. 14, 2021:** Brian reported sponsorships surpassed \$10,000, losing some from past years but gaining some new sponsors also. Day Kimball Hospital contributing \$750 to sponsor children's race. Lord Thompson Manor sponsoring at the \$500 level.
- Information for sponsor signs due Oct. 1 and final sponsor data for t-shirts due Oct. 24. Meeting needed to address singers, ambulance, photographer. Race route itself looks okay, not too wet, one tree down to be removed & USACE alerted of it. Trailer will be on display.

**Trail updates:**

- Charlie created & shared ongoing Maintenance Plan for ALTSP. Suggestion to develop QR code for each trail so people can easily report trail conditions.

- Washout under 200 on ALT due to rains getting worse. Question as to who has responsibility for maintenance on state lands eroded by run-off from state roads. Charlie will draft initial letter from Trails Committee to state departments involved (CTDOT, DEEP, state representatives)
- Turntable stones purchased & moved to site. Stored behind fence with permission from Rod & Gun Club.

### **Social Media/PR/maps**

- Karen in contact with “CTTrailsFinder” a new consolidated website put together by UCONN of all CT trails. Karen & Charlie will work on getting data for Thompson Trails listed.
- Social media emblems on trailer. It needs a QR code generated to take folks to website. Ask Renee.
- Ask Renee to update Trails web pages and add links to Trails Facebook & Instagram

**Trail Census:** Temporary counter in Thompson part of a 12-Town Task Force research project.

### **Reports from Neighboring Towns**

- 12-Town Task Force has had zoom meetings of two of the sub-committees: Infrastructure 9/14 & Environment 9/29. Karen attended. Infrastructure members assessed & voted afterward to hire Barton & Loguidice as consultants, but scope of their work to be negotiated. ERT team members were introduced at Environment meeting; their task is to assess, via site walks through November, the 4 focus areas (1. Putnam; 2. Mashmuquet/nearby land trust parcel; 3. Hebron; 4. Portland) and present reports in January. Karen will send links to meeting recordings to John, Charlie, Paul. Each should contact Jeanne Davies to be sure they get notices of the sub-committee meetings they are interested in.
- Karen, David & Paul attended Putnam’s 9/27 meeting. Weston & Sampson report discussing traffic analysis of possible routes is to come.

### **Future agenda items:**

Grants; tool storage

*Motion & second to adjourn.* Meeting adjourned 8:22 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00 p.m.