

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES
Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00 pm

In attendance: Pat Charron, Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; Recreation Director Brian Leivense; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Paul Horanzy

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

Lucille made a MOTION, seconded by Charlie, to accept minutes of October 4, 2021. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- 2022 Meeting Calendar sent to Town Clerk and for room reservations: Feb. 7, Apr.4, May 2, June 6, July 11*, Aug.1, Sept.12*, Oct.3, Dec.5 (* indicates 2nd floor meeting room)
- Letter sent concerning maintenance plan for ALTSP resulted in CTDOT inspecting for drainage issues from state roads and finding no problems or blockages and them passing repair issues on to DEEP
- request from USACE for comment on Master Plan for West Thompson Dam; (Charlie already sent in some comments)

Finances: updated report to come. Balance estimate of about \$7000.
T-shirt inventory needs updating.

Welcome to new Committee member Pat Charron.

Trailer/Mower Status:

- ***MOTION made by Karen, seconded by Charlie to reimburse Paul up to \$500 for materials needed to adjust mower/UTV interface, hitch repair and hardware/parts needed to install storage system for tools in trailer, tie downs. All in favor***
- A second brushcutter power source is needed. Karen will get current pricing.‡
- ***MOTION made by Karen, seconded by John to spend up to \$300 for consumables (oil & gas), additional gas can and other supplies as needed.***
- Karen asked the Committee to consider if and under what stipulations we might lend tools to Putnam trails group.‡
- Winter maintenance okay. Trailer parking at highway garage in flux. Discussion on GPS tacking for trailer. System needed for DPW & Trails to be in communication about when trailer is taken offsite.

Events:

- **Walktober:** LyAnn reported over 40,000 people participated over the 6 weeks. John's hike to Tri State marker did not have the usual high attendance. Dedication of the new signs at the Train Wreck site had 80-100 people in attendance
- Recreation Dpt. Litter teams will launch in April
- **Turkey Trot 2021:** Brian & Brian reported that sponsorships were up, and although some bills are still to come and higher than usual expenses for shirts and new signs were required this year, predicted income to Trails and Rec Dpt. is about \$2700 each and \$5400 for TEEG. *Big "Thank You's" from Trails to Amanda & Brian of Rec. for jumping into a new project, especially after we had skipped a year. And to Day Kimball for sponsoring and helping set up the children's race.*
- TLGV Spring Outdoors event plans due in March ‡
- CT Trails Day events need planning for June‡

Trail updates:

- The Trail Town Action Plan is available for review. Committee needs to plan next steps.‡ The earliest we may hear about grant funding is January.
- Paul, Charlie, John (and others) have been doing a lot of ditching and repairs to the wet sections of the ALT
- Implementation of an ongoing Maintenance Plan for ALTSP begins **Jan. 8, 9:00am-12:00** with either work behind Drafters or clearing Air Line of obstacles for spring subsequent mowing. Weather dependent. Charlie suggested scheduling first Saturday of each quarter.

Social Media/PR/maps

- “CTTrailsFinder” is a new website put together by UCONN of all CT trails. They now have data for ALTSP. They need data for other Thompson trails.
- Discussion of Z-fold map distribution. Tyra has the boxes of maps we can all disseminate: libraries, Audubon, Vanilla Bean...

Reports from Neighboring Towns

- 12-Town Task Force has had zoom meetings of three of the sub-committees: Infrastructure, Environment and recently Advocacy 11/29, attended by Tyra, Charlie & Karen. Advocacy afterward decided to hire Quinn & Hary as marketing plan consultants. (They produced the Z-fold maps.)
- LyAnn reported Putnam held a 11/23 meeting.

Future agenda items: see items marked ‡ above

Grants; tools; maintenance. spring events

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, February 7, 2022, 7:00 p.m.