

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, February 7, 2022, 7:00 pm

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; Recreation Director Brian Lievense; Ed Greenough, USACE; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Valerie Clark, Ann Baker

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Lucille moderated.

John made a MOTION, seconded by Charlie, to accept minutes of December 6, 2021. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Request for submission for Selectmen's Update (Karen sent)

Finances: no report

Citizen's Comments

- LyAnn shared highlights of upcoming TLGV grant opportunities (details on TLGV website) for Spring Clean-up/Green-up of up to \$500 and Youth Engagement of \$2000-5000
- Valerie Clark and Ann Baker expressed interested in joining and/or helping Trails Committee

Events:

- Ed Greenough, USACE, reported the Blain Bridge replacement is almost done; still needs inspection and then some site work to approaches and they would like Trails Com. help planning a ribbon cutting ceremony. Friday, April 22 chosen, 2:30 pm.
Discussed options for activities and speakers, guided hike, boaters. Send ideas to Karen & Tyra to compile. Event to be finalized at April meeting. Tyra will reach out to list of dignitaries and press, John to scouts.
- Charlie networking with several bike groups. April 23 Narragansett Bay Wheelmen road race. Rail to Trails Conservancy has April 23 designated as "Trails Day."
- TLGV Spring Outdoors event plans due in March for TLGV website; John planning to post a morning hike on 4-mile loop Orange Trail. Post West Thompson Lake Ribbon Cutting.
- CT Trails Day June 4 & 5

Trail updates:

- **Saturday, March 5 work party** behind Drafters.
- May 14th scheduled for clearing Air Line of obstacles before mowing.
- Recreation Dpt. Litter League launch in April. Meeting 2/8 11:00 Town Hall. Brian Loffredo will attend.
- Air Line Train Wreck Park: Expectations are that current grant monies will cover planning & design, MOU agreements with the Butlers, turntable construction, traffic calming, & picnic pavilion.
- CT Humanities funding still available for Spanish translation of Train Wreck history for THS website.

Equipment Status:

- **MOTION made by Charlie, seconded by Lucille, to spend, up to \$400 to purchase Echo-PAS-2620 gas power head unit. All in favor.**
- Reminder we made a motion in December to spend up to \$300 for consumables (oil & gas), additional gas can and other supplies as needed. John will purchase.

Social Media/PR/maps

- John will start posting committee meetings on Facebook.
- Need to submit data to “CTTrailsFinder” for Thompson trails on town land: TriState Marker Trail, Heritage Way, Bull Hill. (Karen & Charlie)

Reports from Neighboring Towns

- 12-Town Task Force has not met since last report.
- Putnam held a Dec. meeting; not attended by our Committee members

2022 Goals (additional to items mentioned above):

Map bike routes

Future agenda items:

April 22 Ribbon Cutting

May work party & ALSPT mowing

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:44 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 4, 2022, 7:00 p.m.