

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:02 pm

Link to February 6 Zoom meeting recording:

Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YGuPvBCJgTryAbNtm91erkAtiwdlZjk24srdBPAPF6SZ_LWKdCwPQHJVypap8HYn.002CtGVQPu3OttHy?startTime=1675728058000

Passcode: D%x6CLjG

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dbiLktadzo>

In attendance: Karen Durlach, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski; Kevin Fijol, Sandra Sarucia; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Phil Rutledge; Valerie Clark; Becky Kalager; Michael st Lawrence, WLT

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Brian moderated.

Charlie made a MOTION, seconded by David, to accept minutes of December 5, 2022. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- Request for submission to next Selectmen's Update
- Request for support letter from Thompson Trails Committee for next 12-TOWN Task Force grant
- Request for support letter from Thompson Trails Committee from WLT for parking project at Bull Hill

Finances: Balance available as of 1/31/23 was \$7,690.67, which does not include 2022 Turkey Trot income, estimated approx. \$3,000.)

Charlie made a Motion, seconded by Brian to budget expenditure of \$800 for 8 months (April to Nov.) of Port-o-john service at ALSPT East Thompson/New Rds. parking area. All in favor.

Charlie made a Motion, seconded by Lucille to renew budget expenditures for calendar year 2023 of \$300 for expendable items (fuel, reprints, etc.) and up to \$200 that Karen can authorize for reimbursements for unexpected expenses to facilitate ongoing projects. All in favor.

Changes to Agenda: Welcome to Kevin Fijol, new Trails Committee member

Citizen's Comments: LyAnn reported TLGV "Spring Outdoors" already has over 50 events scheduled and today was deadline for printed version. We can still get events added to the website schedule.

Events:

- Trails Day events can still be submitted for Spring Outdoors Web listing
- Natchaug Epic takes place the last Sunday of March, starting from Thompson Speedway. There will also be activities the Saturday before. See website for details and who to contact to volunteer.
- Maker Fair Saturday, May 6 (Raindate May 7): discuss T-shirt sales at April meeting.

- RiMaConn in August has no plans posted yet
 - Turkey Trot: Brian reported on wrap-up meeting and a list of suggestions for next year. He has replied to USACE, which is waiting for 2022 financials before issuing a 2023 permit and scheduling the date. TEEG has agreed to 3-way split of proceeds going forward.
- Some suggestions to explore for next year:* Another Trails member to take over some of the jobs Rec. Dpt. is doing. Measure accurate distance of the Walking route. Mile marker sponsors. Corporate donors via local franchises. Adding non-binary category. Recruiting more participants from MA & RI. Explore options for incentives to offer participants, ie, gift bags. Dogs on Walk; dogs in costume. 10K option

Trail updates:

- Train Wreck park project: Tyra presented J&D Engineering site plans for review of parking area, traffic calming plus the boundary survey for turntable site. Several questions raised about horse trailer parking spaces and in/out options. Further concerns should be sent to Tyra to take up with Daniel Blanchette. [besides site master plan, current CTDEEP/AARPA grant also covers legal fees and acquisition for turntable site, rebuilding turntable, building the picnic pavilion and traffic calming. Tyra will submit application by March 1 to apply for 2023 round of CTDEEP Recreational Trail Grants to cover the parking lot improvements and welcome center.]
- 12-Town ALSPT Task Force has had 4 meetings in January to consolidate findings and goals since inception under previous grant funding. There is a meeting of stakeholders Monday, Feb. 13 to pull together a more permanent committee, discuss a grant application to further fund and formalize the group and decide on a fiduciary to host that grant application. Refinement and maintenance of the ALSPT website, planning consistent wayfinding & signage, and maintenance agreements with CTDEEP are primary goals that would benefit Thompson.
- trail around Bull Hill soccer field needs clean-up of downed branches
- Michael st Lawrence presented two Wyndham Land Trust projects they would like Trails Committee help with: 1) Letter of support requested for development of an unpaved parking area on the east side of the Bull Hill Preserve at the top of Bull Hill Rd. 2) Quaddick Community Forest: WLT will be applying for a USDA Community Forest grant and request help developing trails on future parcels to be acquired near Quaddick State Park trails and with reopening trails in the LeClair Preserve.

2023 Goals: *bring ideas for April discussion*

(bike repair stations, benches, horse mounting blocks, etc.; social media, maps, etc.....)

Social Media/PR/maps

- Tyra reported that Eastern Tourism District voted to contribute to reprints of Z-fold maps. Hebron has joined the list of participating towns. Thompson will be reprinting 1000.

Reports from neighboring towns

Putnam: Carly DeLuca is new contact, replacing Delpha Very

Charlie reported Trail Census counter checked & working

Equipment:

MOTION made by Charlie, seconded by Lucille to spend up to \$200 to purchase 2 peavey log rollers.

Future agenda items: 2023 goals

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.