

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES
Monday, August 7, 2023, 7:00 pm

Link to August 7 Zoom meeting recording:

zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mewuswk28uQFSQrS_hFMOM3eZyflFOBDfglgGvVXY2GJ26sZvbx_WUYQ7tWTOATP.VzHGDxWC3XWKEtJK?startTime=1691449206000

Passcode: z&72.fbS

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VauvancJAL0>

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

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

MOTION made by Brian, seconded by Lucille, to accept minutes of June 5. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Michael St. Lawrence updated us on WLT projects:

- Bull Hill parking in final design stages, hopefully completed end of August
- Boy Scout land acquisition: federal grant not awarded; WLT applied for a backup grant that will be decided in October

Finances: Balance available as of 6/30/23 was \$10,428.36.

Noted that Earthworks monthly rental fee has been \$110 this fiscal year.

Citizen's Comments: LyAnn reported assessment signs are in the works from the data collected on the trail behind Drafters .

Events:

- Walktober:

John submitted a hike on Orange Trail (4 mile route Red Bridge/Cheney Rds. to Blain Bridge)

John submitted 2 events coordinated with THS and Rec. Dpt.:

1. Sept. 30, during Community Day: 11:30 railroad museum open at school, 2:45 showing movie "Number 9", 3:00 cemetery walking tour event
2. Friday, Oct. 27 West Thompson Cemetery tour, with Amanda & Joe I.

Charlie volunteered to coordinate with THS for a later Oct. event at the Train Wreck site

- Community Day: bringing Trails trailer & equipment for viewing; need trails volunteers on-site and to help direct people to buses up to school and to cemetery walking tour
- 2023 Turkey Trot (Sunday, Nov. 12): sponsorship funds coming in; Brian & Amanda working on contacting new sponsors. 2023 changes include adding a non-binary, non-age specific category;

allowing well-behaved dogs on the Walk. The Walk course needs to be measured and the run course assessed for potential wet area problems. Upcoming Trot planning meetings will be 7:30 Zooms, dates to come.

- Hartford Marathon is NOT using Thompson as an exchange point but will go through Thompson.
- Natchaug Epic: end of March

Trail updates:

- John mowed ALSPT from Mass line to 193 where overpass being worked on, & will try to schedule in more. Volunteer needed to cut around posts at gates.
- J&D has completed the survey needed to create a draft deed for the Butlers to transfer the parcel for the turntable area. Tyra is hoping to meet with the Butlers soon. After we get the CTDEEP contract on the second grant, the turntable work can go out for bids.
- Tyra mentioned she might like Trails Committee input on the greenspace behind 65 Main after permaculture consultants chosen
- Charlie suggested we start plans on additional ALSPT access from N. Grosvenordale near condos and a project to cleanup Rt. 200 area graffiti, possibly with a public art component
- Karen to contact Matt Quinn again about ALSPT assessment signs
- John, Karen & David did site walk with developer & Janet Blanchette on Quinebaug Donovan Rd. parcel; Next step is up to Jason Lavalee. We don't know, considering weather, if any work started.

Social Media/PR/maps

- Second printing of Z-fold maps on hand.
- Paul would like help getting data from Culvert Trail into an updated map
- John & Brian posting on social media and Brian will soon be posting sponsorship updates to Turkey Trot Facebook.

Reports from neighboring towns

- new 12-Town ALSPT group expected to meet in fall, with new coordinator
- Lucille shared newspaper articles on progress and then hold up on Southbridge rail trail

Equipment:

- John asked if we could get an account at Carl's in Quinebaug. Mower can be serviced there and maybe the Kubota and the special gas we need is sold there. Karen will talk to Finance Dpt.

Charlie made a motion, seconded by Lucille to buy enough gas (Truefuel 4 cycle) to hold & have in reserve. All in favor.

CT Trails Census: awaiting cooperative weekend weather to complete the 10 hours needed for counter calibration

Future agenda items: grant updates, connectors to Air Line, Putnam link

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:21 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, October 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

FYI:

Turkey Trot tentative meeting dates, 7:30 on Zoom: Sept. 7, Sept 28, Oct 25

Volunteers needed to help with CT Trails Census counter calibration. Contact Charlie to help.

Volunteers needed on Community Day Sept. 30