

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES March 2, 2015 (using postponed February meeting agenda)

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Mike Lajeunesse, Al Landry David Ostrowski, Rob Paton; Don Pimental,

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Thompson library. (The Town Hall was locked.) Mike volunteered to act as moderator.

Al asked that the December minutes be corrected to indicate that the trail on the LeClair property has been blazed for over a year and that this spring it just needs a few amendments. Mike made a motion, seconded by Karen, to accept the minutes of December 1 with the noted correction; Al abstained; motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Turkey Trot Committee sent *thank yous to volunteers from our Trails Committee*
- Resolution from the CT General Assembly recognizing the AirLine Trail State Park
- invitation to list our trails in TLGV Adventure Guide; Karen submitted information
- multiple emails concerning the Blain Bridge project (see below)
- Jan. 2015 Air Line Trail update from DEEP, CT State Parks & Trails Greenways Program: "...Work will begin again in Thompson, the crew will remove stumps in the trail and drainage areas, starting at the missing bridge and heading north, then add process gravel a section at a time."

Finances:

No updated financial summary. Mike reported the final 2014 Turkey Trot revenues of \$14,955.50 were equal to expenses, which included donations of \$5,328.12 to TEEG, \$2,664.05 to Thompson Recreation Dpt. and \$2,664.06 to Thompson Trails Committee.

Committee Structure:

Karen sent a letter to the Selectmen delineating the Trails Advisory Committee membership policies, committee structure and a list of current voting members.

Citizen's Comments

- Don Pimental gave the Committee an update on the status of the Starr Rd. issue.

Events

- 2015 Turkey Trot meeting was postponed due to weather; some suggestions offered
- CT Trails Day: Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m. Mike, John, & Scott Robinson will lead a hike to the Tri-State Marker. Pre-registration will go through Recreation website.
- Walktober: John & Rob will brainstorm an event at Thompson Dam (including to raise awareness for Blain Bridge project) and will check with USACE to avoid conflicting dates/activities.

Trail Updates:

• Blain Bridge: UCONN students will be doing the engineering design for the Blain Bridge abutments and bridge replacement for their senior project, spanning this spring and next fall semesters. After USACE reviews and applications/approvals to the required Thompson boards/commissions, USACE is committed to abutment construction, prefab bridge purchase and installation. Three of the four students met with Selectman Paul Lenky, Planner MaryAnne Chiannati and several of our committee members 2/19/15 and were taken to see the bridge site. The Board of Finance was asked to commit \$1000 to this engineering phase of the project. Thompson Recreation Commission will also consider donating and there has been an offer of support by a local bicycle club. **Karen made a motion, seconded by Rob, that the trails committee donate \$1500 to this project; all in favor; motion carried.** It was also suggested we ask relevant Thompson commissions to waive their fees as a further show of support from the Town.

- Karen has been talking to Jim Larkin from NECCOG about borrowing GPS devices that will interface with their equipment to generate new, better trail maps. She will ask him if he can come to Town Hall to do a training workshop with the loaner gps unit Monday, May 4. He quoted us a per hour price for mapping. **Mike made a motion, seconded by Al to spend up to \$600 for gps mapping; all in favor; motion carried.**
- Al Landry reported a small bridge on the trail on the LeClair property needs rebuilding.
- Al and Raman Jamieson are stewards for additional Tamler land being donated to Windham Land Trust.
- N. Grosvenordale Pond Trail on the French River, north of the Knights of Columbus: We received a go ahead from the landowner and the Selectmen. Application for benchcutting is now before the Inland Wetlands Commission. Work party needed this spring after approvals. The Thompson Town highway department still has to remove trash left on campsite this spring and will leave the downed logs for our project.
- John will contact the USACE about chainsaw work needed on the Orange Trail.

Other Business:

- Karen asked us to consider if we want to take some action to honor past Trail chairperson Howard Peck.
- Mike suggested there are new funding/grant/etc. opportunities we should keep track of from CT legislative initiatives

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Karen made a motion, seconded by Rob, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.