

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES February 1, 2016, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, Mike Lajeunesse, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Rob Paton; Angela Hachey, Recreation Dpt. for early part of meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Charlie volunteered to be moderator. Karen made a motion, seconded by David, to accept the minutes of December 7; motion carried, with Rob abstaining.

Correspondence:

- TLGV invited us to join a new spring program. See below.
- John K., stewarding the Tri-State Marker Trail, wrote in about the need to re-blaze and his desire to add geocaching locations. (Karen working on answers he needs.)

Finances: Update will be emailed.

Partners: Volunteer forms must be turned in to the USACE by anyone working on their trails/properties. Karen has these as electronic files.

Events

- Jan. 11 NPS John Monroe presented a workshop on landowner contact at the Thompson Library. Our committee members learned a lot and we made some good connections with DCLT and other folks from neighboring towns. Karen, David, Mike and Charlie attended another John Monroe presentation in Lisbon on sustainable trail design. We are hoping to discuss these principles in future working sessions.
- 2015 Turkey Trot: Follow-up meeting held 2/1. Participation down from 2014; unclear reasons. Income: \$3417.01 to TEEG, \$1697.83 each to Trails and Rec. Dept.
- 2016 Turkey Trot will be Sunday, November 13. Overall participation needs to be increased, both runners and walkers. People needed on the Planning Committee and the Sponsor Committee. Next planning meeting March 10, 7pm, Town Hall.
- Spring lecture program on Thompson trails at the Thompson Library under discussion.
- The Last Green Valley sent a letter recruiting activities to be held during April/May “focused on land trust and municipal conservation properties.” We discussed a possible walk and/or paddle along the easement on the French River, north of K of C. Deadline for proposal is March 1. Karen will look into feasibility for an event this year or not.
- Mike is planning a hike to the Tri-State Marker for CT Trails Day on Saturday, June 4.

Trail Updates:

- trail blazing conventions discussed; more research needed
- 4 committee members (plus Planner & Selectman & USACE) attended UCONN presentation on Blain Bridge design; finished plans are currently with the USACE for review. UCONN design engineering students are currently working on other Thompson projects including the Wilsonville boat launch and the 395 interchange
- Mike continuing talks with Ellis Tech instructor on Ithiel Town bridge.
- Airline: Thompson Dpt. of Public Works has not yet spread stonedust.
- Airline: Prefab bridge to be installed in spring
- French River easement north of K of C: spring work party to finish bench cut to be scheduled next meeting

Non-working GPS Unit returned to NECCOG for repair or update. We are supposed to be able to get it back to plot/map trails.

Questions about Facebook page need to be addressed to Alecia and/or John. Charlie unable to post.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Rob made a motion, seconded by David, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm.