

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES June 5, 2017, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Alecia Underhill; David Barber; Ted Sauve (DEEP Parks & Forest Supervisor III)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Charlie volunteered to be moderator; Lucille to take minutes. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Lucille, to accept the minutes of April 3, 2017; motion carried.

Correspondence:

- recent email from Matt Quinn, DEEP Park & Forest Supervisor I, answering questions raised at previous meeting: new Air Line bridge designed to not require painting; loose boards secured on small bridge, Sunset Hill area; we should not be removing trees ourselves; will meet with Karen to look at Red Trail proximity to LeClair Trail
- invitation to participate in Community Day

Finances: Balance as of 31 May 2017 - \$12,302.97

Discussion ongoing to clarify procedures for grant purchases & reimbursements

Volunteer Tracking sheets:

It is critical that volunteers keep track of all their hours related to trails that will go toward our 20% match on the equipment grant. Time and expenditures count up to 18 months **prior** to the grant signing. Sheets handed out for both Oct.1, 2015 to Sept 30, 2016 AND Oct.1, 2016 to Sept 30, 2017.

Events

- Karen & Charlie set up Thompson Trails display table at QVCC Earth Day April 18. About 50 packets of Thompson Trail maps were handed out. Networking with Willimantic folks and others. Need for an updated exhibit to set up at events.
- John led a TLGV "Geocaching 101" event April 30 with one participant attending
- CT Trails Day Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening of the Air Line State Park Trail bridge April 4. In attendance 15-25 residents, officials from DEEP Parks & Forest, NECCOG and TLGV, and Trails Committee, including hikers, bike riders and horseback riders. Made connections with WestSide Condominium Assoc, members, who are favorable to discussing an easement for Air Line Trail access. Participants were asked to fill out Trails Census surveys. T-shirts were presented.
- Community Day, Sept 24: John will cover at TLGV booth; Charlie will help.
- Walktober: John will lead Orange Trail hike; and maybe a bike ride on Air Line Trail
- Turkey Trot 2017 – no report

DEEP Grant:

Rob & Brian have volunteered to work on DEEP equipment grant. Karen working with Mary Ann Chinatti to get procedures worked out.

CT Trail Census:

As of the first quarter report, 650 people have crossed the counter going north from Lowell Davis Rd. A second counter has been installed to catch the higher anticipated traffic going south. Charlie & Karen spent 2 hrs. on the trail near Mechanicsville doing the first intercept survey. They will train some other volunteers to do the intercept and calibration surveys.

Connectivity:

- David Barber shared a summary report on Rail Trail Status June 2017: SNETT; Blackstone Greenway, R I; Air Line State Park, Thompson; Air Line, Pomfret to Putnam; Air Line in Putnam; Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail; Moosup Valley State Park trail; Trestle Trail Coventry R I.
- Putnam is working on structure for their trails committee and have about 20 volunteers.
- No response yet to letter sent to Genesee & Wyoming.
- inquiry from Ken Pickren about connections to Mid-State Trail from Tri State Trail area

Trail Updates:

- Charlie exploring several options for additional access points onto Air Line Trail
- Additional kiosks needed?
- Discussion on benches (with private sponsors?), horse mounting blocks, railings, historical markers and signage to enhance trail experience
- state prefers bridges which handle ambulance access
- Highway Dpt. chainsawing obstructions and bulldozing as they go, applying stonedust
- parking at Lowell Davis insufficient
- stagnant water at Sandham Rd. and at 193 puddle needs remedy

Maps, web, etc.

- Brian & John have been printing Air Line map flyers and refilling at kiosks; estimate about 100-125 already; quantity needs to be printed after sponsors located
- Karen working with Jim Larkin to generate new maps from collected gps data.
- Thompson website to be upgraded.
- John continues to post to Facebook with a good following

Reports from neighboring towns:

David Barber suggests seeing benches and signs installed in West Dudley/Southbridge

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, August 7, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Charlie made a motion, seconded by Lucille, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:25 pm.

