

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES August 7, 2017, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinkas, Mike Lajeunesse, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski; David Barber; Ken Butkiewicz; Selectman Ken Beausoleil

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Charlie volunteered to be moderator. Brian made a motion, seconded by David, to accept the minutes of June 5, 2017; Karen & Mike abstained; motion carried.

Correspondence:

- forwarded article by Bill Reid about Thompson from “The Bulletin” posted 6/9/17
- forwarded email from DEEP complimenting Air Line Trail improvements

Finances: Charlie reported on processing received contributions for Turkey Trot

Volunteer Tracking sheets:

Karen repeated that volunteers keep track of all their hours related to trails that will go toward our 20% match on the equipment grant. Include mileage and expenses and if additional volunteers besides committee members help.

(Time and expenditures count up to 18 months **prior** to the final grant signing.)

Citizen’s Comments/Reports from neighboring towns:

- Ken Butkiewicz, Dudley, reported on continuing work on the Quinebaug Rail Trail/Bikeway and grant application for an ADA loop trail
- David Barber reported on additional completed $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to SNETT; dedication ceremonies (rained out and upcoming)

DEEP Grant:

Confirmation from Selectman Ken Beausoleil that there will be accessible storage for equipment and vehicle at the Highway Garage.

Discussion on vehicle: prices researched for various models and options by Brian; getting quotes from state vendors; ways to get vehicle to trails, including need for either truck (possible to rent), and trailer (military surplus option?)

** Everyone asked to look over equipment list and make suggestions **BEFORE** the next meeting in October.*

Events

- Community Day, Sept 24: John be at TLGV booth; Charlie will be at Inland Wetlands; both can distribute Trails maps
- Walktober: John will lead Oct. 7 West Thompson Dam Orange Trail 8-mile hike from Cheney Rd. and Oct.28 Tri-State Trail hike; Charlie will lead Oct. (?) bike ride on Air Line Trail

- Turkey Trot November 12, 2017: committee meeting 8/7/17
 - \$6,450 in sponsorship commitments; \$4,725 deposited in contributions so far
 - more volunteers needed on planning committee
 - new banners with changed sponsor names
 - upgrading t-shirts

Connectivity:

- Response received from Genesee & Wyoming real Estate Dpt. Karen sent them maps and information
- Mid-State Trail does not go to Tri State Trail but is further east

Maps, web, etc.

- John & Brian continue to refill Air Line Trail kiosks with map flyer
- Karen continuing projects on maps, brochure, display
- John reported 500 Facebook followers

CT Trail Census:

Charlie reported new coordinator hired, who has visited one of Thompson's counters and been alerted about the second

Charlie to contact volunteers about Sept. intercept census and counter calibration days

Trail Updates:

Air Line:

- Highway Dpt. applied stonedust to Sunset Hill
- Charlie met with condo Board of Directors to ask for recreational easement for additional access onto Air Line Trail in Grosvenordale; they will discuss; Carolyn Werge volunteered to check wording of easement
- Discussion on horse mounting blocks

Discussion on signs where trails cross roads, for bike lanes and safety;

** Submit a list to Selectman for inclusion in Highway Dept. sign budget; ask DEEP for signs for state roads*

Other:

- John announced he volunteered to steward Wyndham Land Trust Long Pond parcel

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, October 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
John made a motion, seconded by Brian, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:49pm.

