

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES August 6, 2018, Thompson Town Hall

In attendance: Mike Lajeunesse, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski; Ted Suave of DEEP, David Barber, Selectman Ken Beausoleil

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall.

Charlie was moderating until Lucille arrived at approximately 7:10 pm when she volunteered to officially moderate. Motion made and approved to accept minutes of June 4, 2018. All in favor.

Agenda revised to address issues relevant to the State/Airline Trail first with Ted Suave present.

Ted Suave, DEEP:

- Stone dust update: money is there to purchase but he doesn't know when we will get delivery
 - Benches provided through Putnam Rotary would be fine; a small plaque of about 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" is acceptable. He would be looking for consistency (same benches used throughout) and referred us to Vernon or Colchester for their bench style.
 - Mounting blocks suggested may not meet with the preference for aesthetics. Ted has brownstone, about 5 blocks that may suit our purpose. Located at Natchaug in Eastford, we could have these for free and he will get them placed. He may need help with specific location and he will e-mail a picture to Charlie.
 - Work is progressing on a stone swale at 193 due to stone dust storm erosion. Brian brought it to his attention that erosion is occurring at other locations as well, the hill leading to Mechanicsville parking lot, under the Route 200 overpass.
 - Pomfret project is due to begin. They are looking at bridges throughout the project. Laurie Giannotti will be making decisions based on need, priority, and budget. They are still looking at the two wooden bridges on the Airline to bring them up to emergency access standards. A bridge over 193 would be a bigger challenge due to its size and that no abutments are present but, considering the traffic, it can't be ruled out for safety.
 - There is a tree completely blocking the trail near the condos. Ted said he would take care of it by Friday.
- Brian inquired as to the scheduled viewing of the Blaine Bridge project. Ken confirmed Senator Blumenthal would be at the Dam at 1:30pm, Tuesday, 8/7 and that some presence of the Trail Committee would be welcome as long as we didn't achieve a quorum. Charlie and I arranged to meet Ken for this viewing.

Correspondence: none

Finances: no new report

Volunteer Hours: no one present brought them

E-addresses: discussed the reasons for having town versus private e-mail.

Citizen Comments: the restaurant by the mini golf course is on hold as the owner waits to see how Anya performs to determine viability of his project.

TLGV Grant: Charlie submitted, with receipt confirmed, grant application for design, purchase & installation of historical & cultural signage. Decision will be made in September (with one year to complete project grant, if awarded).

Equipment: David proposed considering the option to purchase an enclosed mobile trailer for RTV and tool storage. \$3695 for steel, \$4695 for aluminum. Small additional charge for custom height. Aluminum was a preferred choice. Brian asked if we could get another grant to pay for this.

Events:

- Community Day Saturday Oct 6: Charlie volunteered to distribute Trails materials. He would like new input/materials and photos; sub-committee needed to accomplish (next Trails meeting is too late)
- Walktober: John may have event planned
- **Turkey Trot November 11, 2018:** arrangements made for porta potties, ambulance, permit from the rangers, anthem singers. Focus through August is on sponsorships. We have collected \$4525 to date; waiting to hear back/need to personally contact other past sponsors and follow up with new potential sponsors.

Trail updates: (see above on Airline in conversation with Ted).

Ken offered that the town's side mower may be able to help weed control on the Airline.

Trail Census: Charlie checked the counter and it is operational. However we discussed again that it's in the wrong place especially now that stone dust has been applied up to but not including that area, which is overgrown with weeds. This may be the least used trail segment. We also still need to do 100 intercept surveys. Charlie will try to take a weekend to get this done. Heat and rain has been holding down usage. Funding needed to continue program (no longer in DEEP budget)

Connectivity: Southbridge has funding to work on QVRT from Golden Greek to Dudley. MA. Environmental Bond for trunk trail in Brimfield/Sturbridge area and Douglas/Uxbridge and Dudley/Webster. Bill is on Governor's desk for action by Wednesday.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, October 1, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.