

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES June 1, 2015

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinkas, Mike Lajeunesse, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Rob Paton

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. at the Thompson Town Hall. Rob volunteered to be moderator. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Rob, to accept the minutes of April 6; motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Wyndham Land Trust for \$250 donation in honor of Howard Peck
- Invitation to participate in Thompson Community Day Sept. 27
- Survey about Town of Thompson website

Finances:

No financial changes except \$250 donation (see above).

Events

- John might be able to be at Community Day
- CT Trails Day: Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m. Mike, John, & Scott Robinson will lead a hike to the Tri-State Marker.
- Walktober:
 - 1) John told TLGV he would co-lead a hike to Tri-State marker.
 - 2) John & Rob bike ride at Thompson Dam Oct. 11.
 - 3) Charlie considering a 9 mile bike ride on the Airline; will talk to TLGV to see if it is too late to schedule
- 2015 Turkey Trot: June 15 is next full committee meeting, 6:30 at Thompson Library. Knights of Columbus agreed to be a sponsor again. Mike will contact ExtraMart about their sponsorship.

Trail Updates:

- Mapping: May 4 Jim Larkin from NECCOG came to train us on a GPS unit we have borrowed from them. The unit is set up with a base Thompson map and is ready for use; it will record a way point every second. (The device and its charger will be with Karen & David if you want to use it, or with Charlie if they are away. Call to arrange 860-935-9226 or 401-996-6875.) NECOGG will generate digital maps when we complete data gathering.
- John recruited the National Junior Honor Society to work with the Trails Committee and their advisor Ms. Stefanik is enthusiastic that this is a good partnership for her students. John will suggest they adopt the French River Trail from the gazebo to the end of the new easement trail for twice a year clean-up and monitoring. Also he will ask about any students who have computer/social media/tech expertise.
 - French River: John & Charlie, David, John Rob & Keith completed about 80% of the bench cut needed. Another work party will be scheduled in the fall.
 - Airline: Mike arranged with Leo Adams/Dpt. of Public Works and Selectman Paul Lenky for the spread of DEEP supplied stonedust to the 7 miles of trail, 12 feet wide, 3 inches deep, work starting in September, with Highway Dpt. Machinery. Lori Lindquist was informed.
 - Airline: 2 small bridges done; longer bridge near condos contracted out; December installation expected

- Mike discussed with Ellis Tech whether they would consider being involved in a project to design and construct an Ithiel Town Covered Bridge and they were interested. Mike made a motion seconded by Charlie to “Proceed with building an Ithiel Town Bridge to be installed on the Airline Trail as a tourist attraction.” Motion carried. Ellis Tech architectural Drafting Dpt. will design the bridge and the Carpentry Dpt. will build the bridge in 2017. Mike will complete the necessary paperwork with Ellis Tech. More funding specifics to come. Thompson Historical Society volunteered to compile historical information for educational signage.
- Reports from Neighboring Towns: Charlie, Karen & David attended a regional meeting of the Titanic Rail Trail communities. Charlie volunteered to head up a sub-committee focused on connectivity between trails, including the link with Putnam.

Other Business:

- Find out
 - 1) how to generate QR codes for kiosks which would link to website
 - 2) how to link our Facebook page and our webpages on the Thompson site
 - 3) who to contact to make changes to our webpages on the Thompson site
- contact Troop 66 about the trail section they were maintaining
- John would like a list compiled of current trail of stewards.
- new volunteer Kristen Shanley would like a trail to work on and is contacting the Landrys about Tamler and/or Elmwood Hill.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, Aug. 3, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Charlie made a motion, seconded by John, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:33 pm.