

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday June 8, 2009

MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Peter Gandelman, Naomi Davidson, Mike Lambert, Mary Withey, Nusie Halpine, Christine Witkowski, Kent Sleath
Alternates: None
Members absent: Stefan Szafarek

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:37 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of May 11, 2009

Naomi noted that under Section 1.2, "Any revisions?" should be deleted. Also, for further clarification, DAS should be defined and Patti Handy's name should be corrected. *Mary made a motion that the minutes be accepted with revisions. Naomi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Grants

Naomi reported that grant paperwork is being prepared and letters are expected by the end of the month. However, we should check that adequate funding is assured before signing new contracts for the work on Sections 3 and 4.

2.2 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money

No money spent and none reimbursed.

2.3 Section 2

2.3.1 Work done by DEP

Mike reported at the meeting and in a previous e-mail about the repair work done on Section 2 by DEP being very thorough and well done, addressing all the identified problems. The state also provided three loads of stone dust for finishing off the repaired areas.

Mike also noted that Section 2 shows significant damage from horses' hooves (Section 1, with a more established surface, shows much less damage). Galloping horses are also potentially a problem for other users of the trail. Naomi will contact the Connecticut Horse Council about how we can get the message out to riders.

2.4 Sections 3 & 4

2.4.1 Work done by town

Donna reported that both ramps at Chesbro and the ramp at Cook Hill are completed. The town will mow edges.

2.4.2 RFP for new work

Donna reported that the RFP was posted as planned through the CT DAS

website (Department of Administrative Services) and that she has responded to many inquiries. The mandatory pre-bid site walk will take place on Wed. 6/10/09 and bids will be opened at a special meeting of the Committee on June 29.

2.5 Bird Walk

Nusie reported that the Bird Walk with Andy Rzeznikiewicz (Audubon Society) was very successful with 25 participants. Jim Little, Director of Development at the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association which sponsors Trails Day events, was in attendance also and was very pleased by the walk. Nusie and Andy have agreed to repeat the walk next year also. Mary will submit pictures from the walk to Lebanon Life.

2.6 Farmer's Market and Route 85 Trailhead

Naomi asked DEP to enlarge the Airline Trail brochure to mount on foamboard for a sign. She will follow up on this and pass on the sign to Mary, who agreed to keep sign materials at her house. Members agreed that we should participate in Farmer's Market perhaps once per month, and Route 85 trailhead whenever possible to distribute brochures and increase public awareness of our completed sections.

Naomi will talk with Lori Gianatti about getting the Hebron section between Route 85 and North Pond Road cleaned up to make it a better link to our section.

Naomi participated in the Great Parks Pursuit event that began at the Route 85 parking lot, and gave out the brochures.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Reappointment of Kent, Mary, and Walter

Letters were received confirmed the reappointment of Kent, Mary, and Walter to the Trails Committee by the Board of Selectmen at their May meeting.

3.2 Correspondence Received

None received.

3.3 Thank you to Andy Rzeznikiewicz

Nusie will draft a letter to thank Andy for his participation in the Bird Walk, and Donna will print it on letterhead and send it to Audubon.

3.4 WalkCT

Donna reported that the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association is developing a new website to promote walking in CT. Donna will submit information about our section of the trail. The website is expected to launch in the fall.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Naomi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Witkowski
Secretary