

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday July 13, 2009
MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Peter Gandelman, Naomi Davidson, Mike Lambert, Nusie Halpine,
Christine Witkowski, Kent Sleath
Alternates: Walter Miller (Mary Withey), Bruce Sievers (Stefan Szafarek)
Members absent: Stefan Szafarek, Mary Withey

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:34 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of June 8, 2009 and June 29, 2009 Meetings

Naomi made a motion that the minutes of June 8, 2009 be accepted as read. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce made a motion that the minutes of the Special Meeting June 29, 2009 be accepted as read. Naomi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Grants

Naomi reported that a letter was sent by Laurie Giannotti (DEP) notifying the town that \$162,495 in grant funds will be awarded. Until new grant money is received, we cannot sign a contract for any amount exceeding the amount currently held, approximately \$54,000. However, we can choose a contractor and accept a bid exceeding this amount.

2.2 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money

No money spent and none reimbursed.

2.3 Discussion of Bids for Sections 3 & 4/Selection of Contractor

Bids were reviewed by individual committee members prior to the meeting.

Discussion of each bid included the following points:

Nutmeg Gravel & Excavating: significantly higher overall costs than any other bid (\$145,565), including very high equipment costs. Did not complete the required pre-bid inspection walk.

Bakaj Construction: also significantly higher than other bidders (\$86,315 option B or \$87,675 option A), with higher per ton costs for materials and high equipment costs.

Bender's Construction & Excavating: The third highest bidder in overall costs (\$57,810), with equipment hours significantly higher than other bidders, and the lowest total amount of materials.

H.E. Butler: Middle bidder in overall costs (\$47,310), with higher materials costs than other bidders. Proposed use of processed gravel over the entire length of both sections not needed. References provided did not include similar work.

Proulx & LaRoche: Initial bid submission (\$42,158) incomplete; when missing pages were requested by the committee, a new and different bid (\$43,166) was submitted after the deadline; equipment use rate much higher than other bidders.

Donahue General Contractors: Second lowest bid (\$32,720) with savings on per-ton costs of materials compared to higher bidders. Proposed using more materials in several locations on the trail, and proposed equipment hours were not excessive. References were appropriate to the work proposed, and were uniformly positive when contacted.

Burke Ridge: Significantly lower than the other bidders (\$23,396). Amount of materials proposed was less than desirable, and proposed equipment (mini-excavator) inadequate.

Walt made a motion to accept the Donahue General Contractors bid in the amount of \$32,720.46, based on bids received at the June 29 Special Meeting, for improvements to Sections 3 and 4 as described in their proposal. Naomi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Donna will notify all bidders of the decision by letter and work with Joyce to draw up the contract with Donahue.

2.4 Farmer's Market & Parking Area at Route 85

Donna spoke to Scott Dawley (DEP) to confirm that it would be permissible to distribute brochures at the Parking Area on Route 85 in Hebron. It was noted that the section between Route 85 and N. Pond Rd. still needs to be improved if it is to serve as a link to our sections.

Mary set up a table at a recent Farmer's Market and had a good amount of interest in the trail. Phil Chester (Town Planner) has asked that we notify him in advance whenever we want to set up a table at the market.

2.5 Thank You Letter for Andy Rzeknikiewicz

A letter was written by Nusie, signed by Donna, and sent to Andy Rzeknikiewicz to thank him for helping lead another successful bird walk on the trail for Trails Day.

2.6 WalkCT

Donna registered the Lebanon trail sections on the CFPA WalkCT website.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence Received

Letter from Laurie Giannotti, discussed in Section 2.1

3.2 Quarterly Progress Report

Kent presented a draft Quarterly Progress Report for discussion. He will make several small changes and submit the report to the DEP.

3.3 Bridge Vandalism

Nusie reported that the Bridge at Village Hill Road on Section 6 has been vandalized again, spraypainted with neon orange and blue colors. The vandalism has been reported to the DEP police.

3.4 Horses on the Trail

Horses continue to cause damage across the width of the trail in a number of areas; Naomi will email the CT Horse Council about how to work with horseriders to minimize horse damage to the trail.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Nusie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Everyone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Witkowski
Secretary