

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday August 10, 2009
MINUTES

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

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:35 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of July 13, 2009

Naomi made a motion that the minutes of July 13, 2009 be accepted as read. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Grants

Naomi reported that grant paperwork is being completed by the DEP and should be received by the town in the next few weeks.

2.2 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money

No money spent and none reimbursed. Anticipated expenditures include \$32,720 for the contract with Donahue on Sections 3 & 4 leaving \$21,492.12 until additional grant monies are released by DEP.

2.3 Discussion of Progress on Sections 3 & 4

Donna reported that the committee's selection of a contractor for work on Sections 3 & 4 was not initially approved by the Board of Selectmen. Questions were raised about the fact that the committee did not choose the lowest bidder. Donna addressed these questions by preparing additional detailed documentation of the comparison of contractors conducted by the committee. After reviewing the additional documentation; the Board of Selectmen approved the committee's selection of Donahue as the contractor for work on Sections 3 & 4.

Donahue began work today. DEP will have gates delivered next week.

Signs will be needed for the new sections, including one on Stefan Szfarek's driveway. Christine reported that the DEP is forming an internal Airline Trail signage committee to ensure consistency in signage. The new committee is in the planning stages but Christine will sit on that committee and will report on its activities in the future.

Donna discussed planned work with Tom Connelly (town road foreman). The town will need to complete stone dusting after Donahue completes its work. The committee discussed the process for getting quotes on stone dust.

2.4 Revisions for Bid Specifications, Bid Sheets, and Contracts

Donna described the need to make revisions to forms used for the bidding process while the process is still fresh in the committee's memory. The committee discussed several areas for improvement. Christine will review the existing documents and forward suggested changes to everyone for review prior to the next meeting.

2.5 Update on Problems on the Trail

Donna reported on a tree across Section 3, completely blocking the trail. Donna was able to move the tree to the side of the trail using a hand saw and with the help of her husband. She spoke to Donahue about moving the tree further off the trail.

The town has mowed the edges of Sections 3 & 4.

Trees cut by homeowners at the house in Columbia on Section 3, near the gate, fell with tops on state land.

2.6 Town Work Needed

Road crossing signs need to be put up (town already has crossing signs) and crosswalks painted. Sections 3 and 4 will need to be stone-dusted as described previously.

2.7 Follow-up on Horse Council

Naomi spoke with Amy Stegall, President of the Connecticut Horse Council, about problems with deep hoofprints across the trail, particularly on Section 2 where the stone dust has not yet packed down completely. They discussed the possibility of the Horse Council sending out an email broadcast about the problem. Naomi will follow up on this.

2.8 Farmer's Market

Mary is available to sit at the Farmer's Market this Saturday August 15.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence Received

None received.

Joyce Okunuk asked Naomi if our grant application to the DEP had been approved by the town prior to submission. Naomi didn't think we had done this with previous grant applications; approval was sought when the grant was awarded.

Naomi requested a summary of town work since 2008 for grant reimbursement purposes.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Witkowski
Secretary