

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday September 14, 2009
MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Naomi Davidson, Kent Sleath, Mary Withey, Nusie Halpine, Mike Lambert.

Members absent: Peter Gandelman, Christine Witkowski, Walter Miller, Bruce Sievers, Laura Cascio,

1.0 Opening Business

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

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of August 10, 2009 meeting.

Mary made a motion that the minutes of August 10, 2009 be accepted as read. Kent seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reading and acceptance of Minutes of Special Meeting of August 31, 2009.

Nusie made a motion that the minutes of August 31, 2009 be accepted as read. Naomi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Grants

Paperwork for dispersal of grant money has not been received by the town. Naomi held a meeting with Laurier Giannotti, Mike Reid, and the estimates for the completion of work on the remainder of the trail were reviewed. Naomi revised estimates for work to be completed on Sections 6 and 7 and cost estimates that the committee had proposed for work that has been completed on Sections 3 and 4. This resulted in the availability of additional funds in the amount of \$30,000. It is proposed that this money be directed to a special fund to enable the DEP to perform a survey of the land in Section 5. Discussion regarding ramp at the trail crossing at Kingsley Road and drainage issues.

Naomi made a motion for the committee to submit a revised budget to the DEP for phase VII work with total cost of \$232,700. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Naomi will e-mail Lori Giannotti to inform her and Donna will sent a letter to DEP detailing the revision to the budget and the availability of funds for the survey of Section 5.

2.2 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant money – At a recent special meeting money was made available to Donahue Construction for work done on Sections 3 and 4. Naomi has submitted paperwork to document the town's activities to match the funding.

2.3 Discussion of progress on Sections 3 & 4

Sections still need to be stone dusted. Donna reported on various pricing that she has received: Becker \$24,000 - Tilcon \$27,000 – Skyline Quarry \$25,000. Discussion regarding quality of stone dusting that has been completed on sections of the trail and how the material has held up and packed. At this time a final decision regarding stone dusting cannot be made pending receipt of grant monies.

2.4 Revisions for specs, bid sheets and contracts forms

No report

2.5 Update on any problems on the trail

No additional problems have been identified on the trail. The need to replace the lock on the gate at the bridge at Chesbro Bridge Rd. has been brought to the attention of DEP.

2.6. Scheduling of work day

Discussion regarding whether a work day should be scheduled to cut roots that are protruding on sections 3 and 4. Donna has been working on this problem. Gates at road crossings need to be sanded, primed and painted. Nusie will contact the Alternative Incarceration Center in Windham to see if some of the individuals involved in this program might be available to sand, prime and paint the gates. Nusie will contact Donna if they are able to help with this project. At this time a scheduled work day will be postponed.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence Received

None received.

3.2 Section 5

Money (\$30,000) that was identified from the revised cost estimates will be directed to a special fund that the DEP will use to perform a survey of the land in section 5.

3.3 Connecticut Horse Council

Naomi and Laura have been in contact with representatives from the Connecticut Horse Council regarding use of the airline trail. An e-mail has been sent out to over 500 people to inform them of work that is being done on the trail and to ask that they ride with care on sections that are still soft. Naomi also shared brochures geared to horseback riding – Share the Trail, Volunteer Horse Patrol, and Motor Vehicle Safety around horses. These can be placed on the trail when we have kiosks or placed around town in the town hall, library or stores.

3.4 Standardization of signs and funding – no report regarding standardization, discussion regarding where signs are needed: at road crossings, stop sign at Szafarek's driveway, mile markers. Mike suggested that "Do not block gates – emergency access" be stenciled on the gates at the trail crossings. Committee felt that this was a good idea and would be done when all gates have been installed and painted.

3.5 Quarterly report to DEP

Kent shared a quarterly report for review. Several suggested revisions included – to add the total of the percentage of project completed under section (L) and a changing to wording on work that has been completed to include description of work completed on section 3-4. Kent will make revisions and submit the report.

3.6 Other business

Naomi suggested that it would be good to promote work that has been completed on Sections 3 – 4 in Lebanon Life. She will submit a write up to the publication by the deadline for the October publication.

Walking Weekend – Trail walk will be Monday October 12th. Brochures are located at the town hall.

4.0 Move to adjourn

Nusie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm.. Naomi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Withey
Acting Secretary