

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday September 13, 2010

MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Naomi Davidson, Mary Withey, Nusie Halpine, Bruce Sievers, Mike Lambert, Walt Miller (voting as Peter Gandelman)
Alternates: None
Members absent: Laura Cascio, Kent Sleath, Peter Gandelman and Christine Witkowski

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:38 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of August 9, 2010 Meeting

Naomi made a motion that the minutes of the August 9, 2010 meeting be accepted as read. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money

Work on Sections 6 & 7 has been completed with planting of grass, and final rolling of these sections of the trail. Putnam Welding has been paid for their work. Naomi reported that the reimbursement cost for volunteers' hours has increased to \$27.27 per hour. Naomi has completed paperwork so that the town can be reimbursed. Donna shared updated copies of expenditure reports.

2.2 Update on Sections 6 & 7

2.2a Damage to bridge barrier - Donna reported that the barrier (chain link fence and sign) at the end of Section 7 at the Willimantic River has been vandalized. This weekend a temporary replacement was put in place. Town employees will fix and repair the fence.

2.2b Painting of gates – Jose Leon from the AIC who was to paint the gates was directed to contact Donna to pick up painting supplies and paint. Donna has not heard from them. The individuals Supervisor will be contacted to facilitate the process. Donna asks that the individual return her supplies (paint thinner and cleaned brushes) when painting is completed. Discussion regarding stone marker on this section. It cannot be removed; it has been marked with an orange ribbon and will be covered when stone dusting occurs.

2.3 Update on DEP Survey

Naomi reported that the contract has been awarded. It is anticipated that the survey will be done within several weeks and that the process from completion of the survey and report is expected to take 4 weeks. DEP representative and the surveyor

visited the site. The 1st Selectman has been notified that the survey will be done soon in the event that she is contacted by the landowner.

2.4 Quarterly Report – Committee members reviewed the Quarterly Report. It was suggested that a statement should be added regarding the expectation that a survey of Section 5 will be completed in the next quarter.

2.5 A quote for Stone Dust- It is expected that the town will spread stone dust on Sections 4, 6, and 7 in October. Committee reviewed quotes that Donna obtained for stone dust and stone screenings. Discussion regarding benefits of stone dust vs. stone screening and price differentials. It was decided that stone dust should be used as it is more affordable and has been found to pack down well over time.

Naomi made a motion to authorize the town to purchase of stone dust for Sections 4, 6, and 7 from Windham Materials at \$16.00/ton. Bruce seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

2.6 Conversation with Phil Chester – Donna reported that she has spoken with Phil Chester, Town Planner regarding the future of the Rails to Trails Committee. She stated that since the committee still has work to do on Section 5, and that signage and other work needs to be completed on the trail that the committee should continue to meet for several years.

2.7 Walktober Bike Ride – A 15 mile Bike Ride is scheduled for October 16th at 10am. The group will meet at the Route 207 trail crossing. Naomi will send information to Lebanon Life.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence Received

Donna has received a request from the Lebanon Historical Society to share information regarding Eagle Scout Projects that have been completed on the trail. She shared Kevin Sorrel's 10/2003 Bridge work, Matt Gustafson's 10/2005 Bridge work, Brad Heath's 2006 gate project, and Nate Lyon's 2007 gate project.

3.2 Logging on Szafarek Property adjacent to trail – Jan Fitter, Conservation Committee reported that the Szafarek's have applied for a logging permit. DEP forester on the Conservation Committee has voiced concern regarding the need for a buffer from the edge of the airline property to the area of the cutting on Section 3. When the cutting begins, this will be monitored. Committee will ask to be notified when cutting begins.

3.3 Motorized vehicles on trail – Nusie shared her concerns regarding motorized vehicles on the Lebanon sections of the trail from the Windham area when the bridge across the Willimantic River is completed since there was a recent fatal accident in Willimantic after police confronted an individual who had been riding a dirt bike on the Willimantic section of the trail. Discussion regarding various types of barriers that could be put in place at the bridge to prevent motorized vehicles from crossing the

bridge. Nusie will contact Mark Paquette from WINCOG to express concerns and share the recommendation from our committee that some type of barrier should be included in the bridge and trail work.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Withey, Vice Chairperson