

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday October 4, 2010

MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Mary Withey, Kent Sleath, Nusie Halpine and Bruce Sievers and Walt Miller (voting as Peter Gandelman)
Alternates: Walt Miller (Peter Gandelman)
Members absent: Laura Cascio, Peter Gandelman, Naomi Davidson, Mike Lambert and Christine Witkowski

1.0 Opening Business

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

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of September 13, 2010 Meeting

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

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money: No Change

2.2 Update on Sections 6 & 7:

2.2a. The town has re-installed the barrier at the Willimantic River. However, the Danger sign has been removed and the orange warning ribbons burned.

2.2b. Tom Conley has indicated that the stone dusting should begin by mid-October.

2.2b Painting of gates has begun. One gate is finished and the other has been sanded and primed.

2.3 Update on DEP Survey: None

2.4 Logging on Szafarek's property:

Donna spoke to Stefan and he assured her that the cutting that was to be done would be a select cutting not a clear cut. He was going out with the logger to discuss the particulars. No cutting has been done to this date. Stefan understands our concerns about the cutting.

2.5 Walktober Bike Ride :

Peter attended a pre-walk meeting to obtain the registration and materials for our October 16th Bike Ride. Peter will discuss the history of the railroad and Donna will speak of specific areas during stops as we guide the group over our Lebanon section of the trail

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence Received:

Donna has received an e-mail from Cheryl Hutchings of Columbia. She and three other women, walking on section 1 with their dogs, were harassed by 4 dirt bikers. They tried to contact the State Police but no one came. Later one of them went to the Colchester Barracks and were told to get out of the dirt bikers way. Donna had given Cheryl our Resident State Trooper's number and the DEP Enforcement number.

Donna e-mailed our Resident Trooper and attached Cheryl's e-mail. She has not received any reply at this point.

Donna also e-mailed Edith Prague requesting more legislation to deal with this problem. A response from an aide came back indicating they would consider addressing this in the next session.

3.2 Contact with Mark Paquette:

Nusie had contacted Mark Paquette of WINCOG about putting some type of barrier that would prevent ATVs and Dirt Bikes from entering the trail over the bridge, when it has been completed. She has not had a response to her e-mail.

3.3 Barrier Moved at Chesbro:

Walt reported that the large rock which had prevented ATV entrance to section 2 has been pushed aside. It would have taken a tractor or truck to do this. This one more of the very annoying things that have been continuing on the trail.

3.4 Need for new Alternate Member:

Donna will speak to Joyce about advertising for a member for our vacant alternate position. Because of other commitments, many of our members are having difficulty attending the meetings. This is causing a problem with our ability to have a quorum present to conduct business.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Walt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman