

Town of Lebanon  
Rails to Trails Committee  
Monday November 8, 2010

**MINUTES**

Members present: Donna Koenig, Mary Withey, Nusie Halpine, Bruce Sievers, Peter Gandelman and Naomi Davidson

Alternates:

Members absent: Laura Cascio, Mike Lambert, Christine Witkowski, Kent Sleath and Walt Miller

**1.0 Opening Business**

1.1 Call to Order: 6:31 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of October 4, 2010 Meeting

***Mary made a motion that the minutes of the October 4, 2010 meeting be accepted as read. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**2.0 Old Business**

2.1 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money:

On September 30, 2010, the town received reimbursement in the amount of \$41,932.00 for the work which was done by Putnam Welding on sections 6 & 7.

2.2 Update on Sections 6 & 7:

Donna spoke to Tom Conley and he indicated that stone dust had been delivered to Cook Hill Rd. Weather permitting the spreading of the material would begin this week. The town had borrowed the WINCOG blower and had already blown the trails. They kept the blower to use as they spread the stone dust.

Donna had spoken to Jose Leon from AIC and he said that the last gate on Kingsley would be painted soon. It has not been painted as yet. Nusie will contact the director of the AIC to see if the job can be finished before it is too cold.

2.3 Update on DEP Survey:

The surveyors have been on the trail in the past week. They are working on 1500 feet from route 87 toward Cook Hill Rd. on section 4 and 5000 feet from Cook Hill Rd. toward Village Hill Rd. on section 5. Naomi said she did not believe the report would be available until the end of the year.

#### 2.4 Logging on Szafarek's property:

Logging has been done on the Szafarek property. They have done a good job of making the area clear of tree tops. It is a very neat job. The removal of trees is hardly noticeable.

#### 2.5 Walktober Bike Ride :

Peter reported that although there was a small turnout for the bike ride, the event was well received. A brief history of the trail was given and questions answered as they came up.

#### 2.6 Trooper contact:

Donna spoke to Resident State Trooper Turner about the vandalism and threats on the trail. His response was that he felt bike patrol and bigger barriers were the best we could do. He would start the bike patrol in the spring.

#### 2.7 Contact with DEP:

Naomi spoke to Scott Dawley about the barrier at the Willimantic River. The town installed a chain link fence and it was knocked down. They re-installed the fence and now it is missing. Scott told Naomi to let him know if the town could not do anything about a barrier.

Donna had talked to Tom about the situation. They had decided the best way to handle the problem was to place large stones in front of the bridge. Hopefully this can be done when they are in the area to stone dust.

#### 2.8 Contact with Mark Paquette:

Nusie still has not heard back from Mark Paquette. She had inquired what type of barrier they could place on the trail to prevent ATV and Dirt bike access when the bridge is complete.

#### 2.9 New Member needed:

Donna spoke to Joyce regarding the need for an additional alternate member of the committee. Joyce has posted a notification for this open position.

### **3.0 New Business**

#### 3.1 Correspondence Received:

Donna received a request to have our group support a petition to the General Assembly to restore liability protection for municipalities. After a discussion it was decided that this was a legitimate request.

**Naomi made a motion to add our name to the petition supporting liability for municipalities. Bruce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously**

3.2 Discussion concerning the change of the meeting night:

The committee discussed the possibility of changing the night that our meeting is held. Many of the committee members have other obligations so it was determined that Monday night are our best option.

3.3 Calendar for 2010:

Donna shared a draft copy of the proposed calendar for our meeting schedule for 2010. Since the new calendar was the same as this year it was approved.

**Bruce made a motion that the committee accepts the proposed calendar for the 2010 Meeting Schedule as presented. Nusie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

3.4 Contact from Barry Ford:

Donna was contacted by Barry Ford of Colchester. He was the person designed both our brochure and the signs that are on the trail. He asked if we were interested in putting any signs on our section of the trail. Donna indicated that we were interested; however, until the vandalism diminished we could not spend money on signage. Donna did request an approximate amount for a sign similar to what is on the trail in Colchester. The amount would be \$2500.00. Barry asked Donna to stay in touch.

3.5 Postings on section 6:

Donna reported that No Trespassing signs had been posted on the trail on section 6. All of the signs were threatening. Things such as trespassers will be shot; guard dog and keep away were added to the signs.

Naomi said that she would bring this to the attention of the law enforcement section of the DEP.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

***Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Koenig, Chairman