

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday May 9, 2011
MINUTES

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

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:36 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of April 11, 2011 meeting:

Naomi made a motion that the minutes of the April 11, 2011 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:

There have been no changes in this account. At this time we have \$83,607.00 left in our grant. This grant will expire on November 11, 2011.

2.2 Update on DEP discussions on section 5:

On May 4, 2011 a meeting was held by the DEP in Hartford. Those in attendance were Beth Bothers, Martha Frankel, Brian Florek, Laurie Gianotti and Dave Buckley from the DEP. Representing our committee were Naomi and Donna

A discussion was held concerning the possible options for the improvements to section 5. DEP felt we needed to check into the original agreement that the railroad company had made with the landowner to ascertain if Ms. Andrews has any legal rights to the property.

Another meeting will be held with Ms. Andrews on May 12, 2011 to re-walk the property with special concern to determine the amount and types of material that would be needed to improve that section of trail. Donna will be in attendance along with Martha Frankel and hopefully one of the DEP Engineers.

2.3 Signage on trail:

Naomi has contacted Dave Buckley, the Park Manager for the trail. He has agreed to make the road crossing signs and install them.

Naomi has created a new direction sheet, to be installed at Village Hill Rd. This will inform trail users of the detour.

2.4 Updates on the Windham Trail:

Donna spoke to Mark Paquette from WINCOG. He stated that the permits needed from the DOT are holding up their progress. There are other concerns about the ending point of the trail on Bridge Street.

Mary Lou DeVivo has agreed to an easement for the needed property to run the trail along the river. At this point the project is \$800,00 over budget and probably will not begin until next summer.

It looks as if the bridge on the Hop River Trail in Andover, that crosses route 316, will be installed the first part of June.

2.5 Requests for work from town:

Donna has submitted a request to Tom to have the town crew do the following work as time permits:

1. Install trail crossing signs on Cook Hill, Village Hill and Kingsley roads.
2. Paint crosswalks at these locations as well as re-paint crosswalks at Leonard Bridge and Chesbro Bridge roads.
3. Mow the edges of the trails on sections 1, 2 and 5.

2.6 Bird Walk:

Nusie will lead our annual Bird Walk on June 4, 2011. It will begin on route 87 and go toward Chesbro Bridge Rd.

2.7 Car Parts:

It was noticed by various committee members that there are parts of a car that are visible on section 3 near the cut out. We will need to plan a time to have a truck and a few committee members available to remove these. We will also need to have a drop off point determined.

2.8 Walktober event:

Donna discussed our trail walk with photo opts that has been arranged with Stan Malcolm for Sat. Oct. 15, 2011 on section 4.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Cub Scout cleaning on Earth Day:

Donna received a request from Stacey Witney to have a group of Cub Scouts do some work on the trail. It was suggested that the trail could always use some cleaning. It is not clear if the scouts did indeed work on the trail.

3.2 Do Not Block Gates signs:

Donna has installed Please do not block gates signs at: Leonard Bridge Rd., Chesbro Bridge Rd. and Route 87. Additional signs will be placed on the other gates in the near future.

3.3 Clearing of downed trees in ditches and on sides of trail:

Donna and her husband Walt worked on sections 1 & 2 this past week to remove trees lying along side the trail and blocking water flow in the ditches.

3.4 Quarterly Report:

The first quarterly report for 2011 was submitted to the DEP. Work to be completed this quarter included: installing signage, crosswalks and additional barriers at entrances. We also will be working with DEP to determine the best course of action on section 5.

3.5 Trail Maps:

Naomi will contact the Hebron Recreation Department to inquire about printing additional trail maps with minor changes showing Lebanon's newly completed sections.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Walt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman