

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday June 13, 2011
MINUTES

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

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:33 P.M.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of May 9, 2011 meeting:

Naomi made a motion that the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting be accepted with the corrected date in section 2.1 to read (November 4, 2012). Nusie 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.

Naomi informed us that DEP is expecting a \$1,000,000.00 grant. Laurie Gianotti encouraged us to apply for a portion of this to finish the necessary work on the trail. Naomi and Donna will work on the paper work for the application.

2.2 Update on DEP discussions on section 5:

On May 12, 2011 Martha Frankel, DEP Land Acquisition, Brian Florek, DEP Surveyor, Dave Buckley Eastern District Park Manager and Donna met with Lorraine Andrews. They walked the disputed section of the trail so that Dave and Donna could familiarize themselves with the condition of the trail in that area. During the walk a Heron Rookery was noted in this area. We were later notified that because of the nesting area, no disruption to this area could occur between April 15 and Aug. 15. There must be some accommodations for the cattle. At this point, DEP is waiting for contact from Ms. Andrews' attorney.

2.2a Donna shared pictures that she had taken of the area during the walk.

2.2 Signage on trail:

Naomi has made up signs that give directions for the detour from section 6 to section 4 and had them laminated. Donna installed one at the Village Hill Rd. crossing.

We are still waiting for the promised signage of road crossing names from the DEP.

2.3 Requests for work from town:

The town has starting mowing the sides of the trail on sections 1 and 2.

Donna requested that all section be done as time permits.

2.4 Trails Day Walk:

Nusie reported on our annual Bird Walk. We were afforded a beautiful day with 20 participants. The highlight for many was the sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker. Nusie was able to get Andy to commit to a walk for next year.

2.5 New brochures:

Naomi has reconnected with Rich Calarco from the Hebron Recreation Department. At this time he is waiting for the Colchester Recreation Department to hire a new Director so that they can meet and discuss the necessary changes to the brochure.

2.6 Fernal property on Route 87:

Naomi has talked to Martha Frankel about the enforcement time table on the Fernal property. There was very little to report at this time.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Conversation with DEP Law Enforcement:

Nusie discovered a tree which had been purposely cut down and pulled across the trail. She notified Donna who then tried to contact our Resident Trooper and DEP. No direct contact was made with either party but messages were left. Donna was attempting to have the matter looked into.

The tree was removed. We do not know who cut it up. There still was no contact from anyone. Naomi contacted Law Enforcement in her office. They e-mailed our local officer.

Eventually Donna spoke to both a Game Warden and Capt. O'Connell from the Enforcement Division. Both told her about their shorthanded condition. Donna was told if we saw vandalism or ATV or dirt bike use, to get a description and call DEP enforcement at (860 424-3333). The more calls the likely we would get attention.

3.2 Re-appointments:

Donna had received a letter indicating that all members whose terms expired in May had been re-appointed. There has been some mix-up on the terms. The Board of Selectmen will be making some changes.

3.3 Beautification of trail:

Peter suggested that we should begin some planning of plantings to be made both at trail heads and along the trail. He brought to our attention that Pride's Corner is going through some personnel issues and may be willing to donate some sub-standard plantings. Peter will contact them to see if they would be willing to make this type of donation for the fall.

Committee members will work to determine the best sites for the plantings.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Walt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman