

Town of Lebanon
Rails to Trails Committee
Monday April 9, 2012
MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Nusie Halpine, Mary Withey, Naomi Davidson, Bruce Sievers and Mark Fitton

Alternates: Walt Miller (Peter Gandelman)

Members absent: Peter Gandelman, Laura Cascio, Mike Lambert and Christine Witkowski

1.0 Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:32 P.M.

1.2 Welcome to Guests:

Harold Hopkins, Director of Operations from Windham Materials stopped in to tell the committee that Windham Materials was now producing their own stone dust and could provide it to us at a lower cost than had been available in the past.

We let him know that we still had one more section of trail and would possibly need more material.

1.3 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of March 12, 2012 meeting:

Bruce made a motion that the minutes of the March 12, 2012 be accepted with the following revisions. Make a correction to the spelling of Mark Fitton's name and add Donna Koenig to the list of absent members. Nusie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Updates concerning section 5:

- a. Donna met with Phil Chester to see if he had found funding options for the needed fencing. He explained that there were no funds available for this type of project.
- b. Donna met with Keith Sczurek, friend of Lorraine Andrews, on March 25th. Together they walked and measured the length of the area that Keith felt might work for enclosing the cattle. This was to obtain some idea of what might be a feasible fencing option.

- c. On March 29th, Donna met with staff from the DEEP on section 5. She shared with them that Ms. Andrews had met with a realtor about listing her property. The group walked the entire section 5, discussing the needs of each area to bring it back to a useable trail. Laurie Gianotti led the group of eight, each person adding their expertise to the discussion. At the end of the walk, it was determined that after a plan was in place, Laurie and Scott Dawley would meet with Lorraine Andrews to explain what would be done. In addition, Scott would be looking into possible state acquisition of the property.
- d. The DEEP staff has mowed the trail from Village Hill Rd. to the stone blocking the trail. They have also removed some fallen trees.

2.2 Status of Spending/Reimbursement of Grant Money:

Laurie Gianotti has requested that the town turn over some or all of the remaining funds from our grant to the DEEP for use in the improving this section of our trail. Joyce has agreed to turn all of the remaining funds back to DEEP.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the committee felt that we should retain a portion of the grant to do some repairs, and possibly a parking area.

Naomi made a motion that we return \$50,000 to the DEEP for work on section 5. If the costs exceed that amount, the committee will revisit this issue. Bruce seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Donna will write a letter for Joyce's signature, which will allow DEEP use of these funds.

2.3 Signage on trail:

Donna thanked Dave Buckley for the signage that the DEEP has installed indicating the road crossings. When she asked about the remaining crossing signs, Dave indicated that he thought that those were the only signs we had requested. Dave said that he would look into the additional crossing signs as well as the small signs indicating allowed and prohibited activities on the trail.

2.4 Work the Town has done:

The Town Crew has chipped brush, removed downed trees, removed stumps and cleared and deepened ditches along the entire trail.

2.5 Plantings on Trail:

Donna has planted a few Japanese iris at the entrances of the trail.

Nusie will forward a link to deer resistant and noninvasive plants, to enable committee members to choose plants that may be planted on the trail.

2.6 Motion for the re-appointment of committee members:

Mark made a motion that Nusie Halpine, Mike Lambert and Bruce Sievers all be recommended for re-appointment to the committee for another term. Mary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2.7 Walktober Event:

Nusie will continue to look into a leader for our Walktober event discussing the history, flora, fauna and the architecture of the trail. If she cannot obtain a speaker, she and Donna will lead the event. The walk will be on **October 13, 2012 at 8:00AM or a rain date of October 20, 2012 at 8:00AM**. The walk will start at the route 87 trail crossing.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Quarterly Report:

Donna presented the quarterly report spanning January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012. A few revisions were suggested. These revisions will be included before the report is submitted.

3.2 Election of Officers:

A discussion was held concerning the election of new officers. As no member wished to become an officer, and the existing officers agreed to remain in place, it was determined that an election was not necessary.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn:

Walt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman