

Town of Lebanon Rails to Trails Committee

Monday April 14, 2014

MINUTES

Members present: Donna Koenig, Naomi Davidson, Bruce Sievers, Nusie Halpine, Mark Fitton and Art Wallace

Alternate Members: Walt Miller (Mike Lambert)

Members absent: Mike Lambert, Mary Withey and Peter Gandelman

1.0 Opening Business

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

1.2 Welcome to Guests: Trooper Konow

Trooper Konow addressed the committee about policies concerning ATVs on the trail. He told us that they could make an effort to stop an ATV, but they could not chase them. If they are found on the trail they can receive a ticket and their vehicle can be towed. If you as a committee member see an illegal vehicle on the trail, get a good description or picture and send it to both DEEP Enforcement at 860 424-3333 and Trooper Konow at 860 642-7730 or residenttrooper@lebanontownhall.org.

Trooper Konow also informed us that reports of possible drug activity at some of the trail heads had been reported.

1.3 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of February 10, 2014 meeting:

Art made a motion that the minutes of the February 10, 2014 be accepted with the following correction. Section 3.1 should read 2013 rather than 2014. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Updates on Kiosk:

Bruce had contacted Eben about his time line for finishing the kiosk. Eben was planning on finishing the last of the construction and the landscaping around the kiosk by the end of May.

2.2 Updates on section 5:

Donna had spoken to Dave Buckley concerning items that still need to be addressed on section 5.

- Installation of the gate at Cook Hill Rd.
- Installation of the side rails on the bridge
- Removal of the logs that had been cut along the section
- Repair of the trail surface from washout and early freeze, thaw cycle.

Dave indicated that as soon as the trail surface had firmed up the logs would be removed and the surface re-graded and rolled. The gate and the side rails on the bridge would be installed later this summer. Dave also had the allowed and not allowed activities signs that Donna will pick up this week to install on our trail entrances.

2.3 Benches:

Donna had started to research benches available to install along the trail. Naomi had suggested that benches made from recycled materials might work well. We are planning to install one in ground bench toward the middle of each of our seven sections. Bruce has agreed to further investigate our options and possibly get samples of the material. We would like to get benches purchased and installed before the end of summer.

2.4 Re-appointment:

The Board of selectmen has refigured the terms of many of our members. This move was made to assure that we do not have a number of experienced members all with the same term ending at one time. The following members will have terms expiring in May of 2015: Donna, Mary, Art and Walt.

May of 2016: Naomi, Peter, and Nusie.

May of 2017: Mike, Bruce, and Mark.

2.5 NU Update:

Section 6 of our trail has been officially closed by Northeast Utilities. It will stay that way until all work over that section of trail has been completed. The trail is still passable with double gates and warning signs before and after the actual work area.

2.6 Walktober:

A bicycle ride with stops to look at the various bridges running under the trail will take place on Sat. October 4, 2014. Donna and Mary will lead the ride.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Signage:

Donna met with Barry Ford, the Graphic Designer, who created our maps. She asked him to get prices for; updating and re-printing the maps, providing just the DVD for the printing, a large sign to place in our new kiosk and a larger free standing sign to be placed at the Kingsley Rd. parking area. We would like to get signage in place now that the trail is complete.

3.2 Maps:

Donna will contact Laurie Gianotti to find out if DEEP has any printing connections for the maps. The Colchester Recreation Department was also interested in getting some new maps.

3.3 Supreme Court Ruling on Trails:

It was reported that the recent Supreme Court ruling favoring the landowners surrounding rail trails will not impact our trails in Connecticut.

3.4 Quarterly Report:

The first quarter was presented for review. There was little change because of the poor weather.

3.5 Publicity for the trail:

Naomi told the committee about the video that has been prepared to highlight the trail and the towns surrounding the trail. DEEP is trying to promote the trail for historical and economic value as well as recreation. Naomi will notify us when the video is available to the public.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn:

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM. Walt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naomi Davidson, Secretary