

Town of Lebanon  
Rails to Trails Committee  
Monday January 12, 2009

**MINUTES**

**1.0 Opening Business**

1.1 Call to Order: 6:35 PM

Members present: Kent Sleath, Naomi Davidson, Nusie Halpine, Mary Withey, Christine Witkowski, and Donna Koenig

Alternates: Walter Miller (Peter Gandelman)

Members absent: Stefan Szafarek, Peter Gandelman, Bruce Sievers and Mike Lambert

Guests: Marc Lang, Conservation Commission Chairman, Conservation

Commission members: Keith Laporte and Jan Fitter.

1.2 Reading and Acceptance of Minutes of December 8, 2008:

**Nusie made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. Kent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**2.0 Old Business**

2.1 Status of grants:

We have not received any information concerning the pending grant. We expect to hear by February.

2.2 Status of spending/ reimbursement of grant money:

There has been no new spending. We are awaiting more matching documentation from the town so we may apply for re-imbursement.

2.3 Section 3 and 4- Determination of extent of work needed:

Members of the committee will review the RFP from section 2 and make the necessary changes so that it will reflect the issues that will need to be addressed for sections 3 and 4.

The town has done some work to the ramp at Cook Hill Road. The ramp that they have started work on has not been placed in the desired area. Donna will contact Tom to discuss where should be constructed.

2.4 Bridge at Village Hill Road:

The town has not installed the cross- pieces on the upright barriers. Naomi will contact Tom concerning this need.

3.1 Marc Lang, Conservation Commission Chairman – property adjacent to trail:

Marc spoke to the committee about the possibility of purchasing property along the trail near the Route 87 crossing to extend trail options. He discussed the positive aspects that such a purchase would provide to our existing facility. After discussing the matter, the committee indicated that it would be in favor of such actions. However, before we could actually speak in behalf of this purchase we

had to be sure that our committee had received all requested funds to complete the improvements for the entire Lebanon section of the Airline Trail. The monies to purchase the land that the Conservation Commission wishes to obtain would be requested from the same grant funds that are supporting our work. After our committee receives the required funds for completion of the trail, we will support the purchase of this property.

### 3.2 Section 2 – Rain damage:

Donna, Walt and Kent explained the extent of the damage to the finished trail as the result of the rain storm in early December. There was a big washout at the culvert behind Mike Lambert's house. Only four feet of trail surface remain at that location. From the Drum entrance to the trail to Chesbro Bridge Road, much of the stone dust was washed off the trail into the ditches. In some cases the entire trail surface was washed away.

Naomi will contact Eric Ott, engineer with the DEP to see if he would be available to look at the area and provide his opinion as to the best way to correct this problem.

The members of the committee will examine the contract with Nutmeg to see if there is any possibility that the failure was due to the way the work was done by them. If that is so we may be able to use their bond monies for the correction of the problem.

### 3.3 Discussion – election of officers:

Naomi stated that new officers for the year 2009 needed to be elected. She further indicated that she no longer wished to serve as the chairman. Mary said she would continue to serve as the vice-chairman but did not want to serve as chairman. Christine would be willing to serve as secretary. Donna would be willing to serve as the chairman if no one else wished to serve.

If any members of the committee who were not able to attend the meeting would be willing to serve as an officer please contact Naomi. The election of officers will take place at the February meeting.

Christine's term on the committee expires in May. She stated that she would like to continue serving on the committee.

**Mary made a motion that the committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen re-appoint Christine to the Rails to Trails Committee. Furthermore we recommend that Bruce Sievers be appointed as a full member to replace Anne Dawson, who has resigned from the committee. Donna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

### 3.4 Correspondence Received: none

### 3.5 Tree Removal – Kingsley Road:

Nusie reported that a group of neighboring landowners had pulled down and cut up the tree that had been over the trail at the Kingsley Road crossing.

### 3.6 Quarterly Report:

Kent provided his quarterly report to the DEP for the committee's approval. The report approved with some minor corrections.

### 4.0 Motion to adjourn:

**Nusie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM and it was seconded by Mary. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna C. Koenig