**Town of Lebanon Rails to Trails Committee**

**Special Meeting**

**Thurs. October 28, 2021**

**Minutes**

Members present: Michael Lambert, Mark Fitton, Walt Miller, Nusie Halpine, Mary Withey, Bruce Sievers

Members absent: Art Wallace, Peter Gandelman, Heather Brunelle

Guests welcomed: Kevin Cwikla, First Selectman, Town of Lebanon, LyAnn Graff, Representative from the Last Green Valley

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:03pm
2. **Approval of Minutes** **of March 12, 2020, Meeting:** Minutes from March 12, 2020, shared and reviewed with members present. Mark made a motion that the minutes should be accepted. Walt seconded and the motion passed.
3. **Discuss Pedestrian Crossing Lights:** Michael shared a draft letter to the First Selectman, Kevin Cwikla regarding safety concerns at the trail crossings at Rt. 87 and Rt. 207. Road traffic speeds are at high rates at times in these areas and line of site issues exist at both trail crossings. Bruce had suggested to the committee that we propose yellow flashing lights be installed at these trail crossings to promote pedestrian safety. Committee members agreed that this should be pursued and proposed the following:

* Direct the letter to Laurie Gianotti, the Committee’s contact at the State of CT DEEP. LyAnn will share email contact for Laurie Gianotti with Mary, and this will then be shared with the Rails to Trails Committee Chair for distribution.
* Send the letter from both Kevin Cwikla, First Selectman and Michael Lambert, Rails to Trails Committee Chair
* Send CC of the letter to representative from the State of CT Department of Transportation (Kevin will speak with Town DPW Director to identify contact from State of CT), State Police, and the Selectman from the towns of Columbia and Hebron (the trail crossings are geographically located in these towns.

1. **Discuss General Trail Use and Maintenance Issues:** The following issues were identified by members present –

* Overgrowth of brush on trail section near the farm at Cook Hill Rd needs to be addressed. Kevin will speak with the Director of PW for the town and ask that this work be scheduled before the weather deteriorates.
* Section 2 (between Leonard Bridge Rd and Chesbro Bridge Rd) has a section that has sustained erosion from heavy rain and requires additional stone dust. Discussion with First Selectman regarding Rails to Trails Committee’s past purchase of materials for future use. Committee reported that material (stone dust) was stored at the Town Transfer Station. Walt believes that he is aware of the location and will confirm and report back to Michael so that the Director of Public Works can be informed.
* Plan Fall cleaning of ditches at the side of trails
* Michael and his son Hunter plan to blow leaves and grate the trail sometime this month. The town will reimburse Michael for his gas and the Committee appreciates his ongoing efforts!

1. **Discuss and Act of 2022 Meeting Schedule:** Next meeting will be held on April 19, 2022. Group discussed moving the meetings back to 6:30pm and those present agreed. Per the First Selectman, a hybrid format (part via zoom and part in person) is possible.
2. **Adjourn -** Move to Adjourn Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm and Bruce seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Withey