

Town of Lebanon Rails to Trails Committee

Monday Sept. 9, 2019
Minutes

Members present: Donna Koenig, Mary Withey, Nusie Halpine, Heather Brunelle, Walt Miller, Michael Lambert, Peter Gandelman and Bruce Sievers
Members absent: Art Wallace, Mark Fitton

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:30PM

1.2 Welcome to guests:

The committee welcomed our newest member Heather Brunelle. She comes to us with many ideas and enthusiasm to help move our trail forward.

1.3 Reading and acceptance of the Minutes from March 11, 2019:

It was noted that there was an error on the minutes in the 3.2 entry.

The corrected entry should read;

*After some discussion, the committee felt that this year's clean-up would be done by each member at a **convenient** time for them.*

Nusie made a motion to accept the minutes with this correction. Bruce seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Trail Clean-up:

Each member who had been involved in the trail clean-up reported about their section. Most members found little trash and removed trail side debris. Nusie noted that we are getting young growth along side of the trail that will need to be cut.

2.2 Conditions on the trail:

Most of the trail seems to be in fairly good condition. The heavy amount of rain we had in the spring did wash some of the stone dust so that there is more of the base product on the surface.

We had some trees down that were removed by DEEP. The town did a nice job of mowing in July.

Mary noted that there is a dangerous hole in the trail on the Hebron section near 207. I mentioned that the hole had been filled. Peter told us as of last week, it was opening up again.

Donna will contact the Hebron Recreation Department to discuss this issue.

2.3 Bird Walk:

Nusie reported that we had a good turn out as usual for the walk. The Barred Owl was spotted again. Two photographers with the group posted their pictures on the web. Nusie has already coordinated with Andy for our next Bird Walk on June 6, 2020.

2.4 Library Bench:

Donna reported that she has not been contacted by the teachers from the middle school regarding the installation of the library bench on the trail. She is guessing that their plans have changed.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Calendar for 2020:

Mike made a motion that we set March 9, 2020 and Sept. 14, 2020 to be the two regular meeting dates for next year. Mary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3.2 Conference on Rural Development:

Donna attended a follow-up conference that dealt with the grant received by the twelve town members of the Air Line Trail. Laurie Giannotti from DEEP spoke about improvements that were happening on the trail. They indicated that they would be putting together a team to determine what the most important needs for the full utilization of the trail.

Donna met with a member of the Last Green Valley who told her about their work to determine the exact elevations, especially at the road crossings, of the entire Air Line Trail.

3.3 New proposed 111 mile trail:

There is a new trail being proposed including our section of the Air Line Trail. This new trail will be 111 miles long including; the Air Line South, the Hop River, the Charter Oak, East Hartford Riverfront, the Founder's bridge, the Bloomfield trail, the Farmington Canal trail and from Cheshire back toward Middletown and back to the Air Line. Most of this is in the planning stage. They will take all the existing trail segments and try to make connections that can be eventually be one trail.

3.4 Coordination with the Last Green Valley:

Our newest member Heather is very interested in hosting events to get more people out on the trail.

She spoke about her conversations with the staff at the Last Green Valley. We have been involved with the Walktober events for years, but now they are sponsoring other activities year round. Heather is interested in creating an event highlighting the wild flowers along the trail and possibly painting them. Heather will present her proposal at our next meeting.

4.0 Move to Adjourn

Nusie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. Mike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman