

Town of Lebanon Rails to Trails Committee

Thurs. March 12, 2020

Minutes

Members present: Donna Koenig, Mark Fitton, Walt Miller, Michael Lambert, Nusie Halpine and Heather Brunelle

Members absent: Art Wallace, Bruce Sievers, Mary Withey and Peter Gandelman

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:30PM

1.2 Welcome to guests: None present

1.3 Reading and acceptance of the Minutes from Sept.9, 2019

Mark made a motion that the minutes of September 9, 2019 be accepted as read. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Conditions on the trail:

The condition of the trail is generally good. There are a few spots where some minor washout has occurred. The major issue is the debris in the ditches and on the sides of the trail.

2.2 Trail clean up:

We will do a trail clean up on May 2, 2020. All members available will meet at the Leonards Bridge Rd. parking area at 8:00 AM. Mike will bring his tractor and trailer so that we can put debris in the trailer and dump it in an appropriate spot. We will place any garbage that we locate in bags to be brought to the transfer station.

Wear boots and bring gloves. Chain saws and clippers will be needed.

2.3 Library Bench:

Donna was contacted by Library Media specialist, Kate Confrancesco concerning the Library Bench that the middle schools students wished to place on the trail. According to Kate, it will be ready this spring. It has been approved by DEEP and suggested that it be placed near the gazebo. Kate will contact Donna when they are ready to place it.

2.4 12 Town meeting concerning the Airline trail:

Kevin, Phil and Jay attended the meeting held on Feb.20, 2020. After the initial presentation the group separated into smaller groups discussing specific issues. Both Phil and Jay worked with the infrastructure group. The next meeting will be in June. Notes from this meeting will be sent to all members as soon as they are available.

As Donna Spoke to Phil about this meeting, he reminded her that the new 10 year plan for the town is being prepared and the draft will be ready in July. The last 10 year plan called for a dissolution of the Rails to Trails Committee when the trail had been completed. A final decision will be made on this matter with or without the Rails to Trails Committee input.

Both Mike and Heather had strong opinions on the benefits of the committee

remaining intact. Mike spoke of the services provided to the town for trail maintenance which are not being addressed by anyone else. Several of the committee donate a good amount of time and their equipment for trail maintenance. Heather pointed out that the committee was providing services to the town at no cost. This is a win-win situation for the town.

Mike will formulate a letter to Phil indicating the reasons the committee staying intact will benefit the town.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Meeting with Kevin:

Donna had met with our new 1st Selectman, Kevin Cwikla shortly after he took office. She gave him an overview of what the committee has done and what it continues to do. He ask what we needed from the town and I explained the ongoing issue with trail maintenance. He told him to let him know if we needed anything.

3.2 Bird Walk:

The annual Bird Walk will be held on Sat. June 6, 2020. .

3.3 Contact from trail neighbor:

Donna spoke to a trail neighbor concerned about loose dogs coming onto her property. She wanted either the town or state to put up a fence around the parking area. Donna told her that there were no funds available for this type of project. She explained that the state owned the trail and gave her contact information for the local Trail Manager Donna did put up a sign on the kiosk reminding dog owners to leash dogs at all times.

3.4 Election of Officers:

Walt made a motion that Mike Lambert be named Chairman and Heather Brunelle be named Secretary of the committee. Mark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3.5 Re- appointment of members:

The terms for Mike Lambert, Mark Fitton and Bruce Sievers and expire in May. All three members wish to continue to serve on the committee.

Mike made a motion that we request that the Board of Selectmen re-appoint Mike Lambert, Mark Fitton and Bruce Sievers to another term on the Rails to Trails Committee. Walt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4.0 Move to Adjourn

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM.Walt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman