

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2024 7:00 pm

Link to February 5 Zoom meeting recording:

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hej1sid5cmu468EltbQfqrj1-56ZRQu6oRcHjxRzQ1TqEv9UHZLp-UPRW6zWoWn.V8lqggFqwxARmAX1?startTime=1707177646000>

Passcode: PSb4VMO!

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld5n9eS6vzk>

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; First Selectman Amy St. Onge,; LyAnn Graff, TLGV, Jane Wyrick, Central Mass Regional Planning Com.; Valerie Clark

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Lucille moderated.

MOTION made & seconded to accept minutes of December 4, 2023, with "Next Meeting" date corrected to 2024. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Letter of thanks from The Thompson Senior Citizens for donating a decorated Christmas tree to their *Festival of Trees* fundraiser.

Finances: Available balance as of 1/29/24 is \$9,696.63. Expected addition of \$5,233.09 from 2023 Turkey Trot.

Term Limits: Defining a set number of years for Committee memberships was discussed. Consensus was that there was no need, since we always welcome more active members, and that more attention should be paid to requesting resignation letters when someone leaves.

Citizens Comments: Jane Wyrick from Central Mass Regional Planning Commission discussed efforts underway to revitalize an area where Dudley abuts Webster. She is also interested in further discussions about how to complete the trail through CT that would link the two Dudley sections of the Quinebaug River Bikeway (Rail Trail).

Trail updates:

- ALSPT grant status: 1st grant—Tyra reported the Town closed 2/5/24 on the land acquisition from the Butlers; bid documents due shortly from J. Blanchette, which then need DEEP’s review & approval
- ***Charlie made a motion, seconded by John, to fund up to \$2500 for a second bike repair station.***
- 65 Main project: Tyra shared view of plans showing footpaths to the river; Trails Comm. could volunteer help when clearing/construction underway
- John suggested a workday for April 27 to be posted, coinciding with Thompson Together April Clean-up
- weedwacking volunteers needed to cut around posts at gates in Mechanicsville parking area

Events:

- “Spring Outdoors” is currently accepting listings for events (brochure deadline this week, web listings anytime); John will submit a listing for workday activity for April 27
- 2024 Turkey Trot: Brian reported the search is on for new sponsors
- *Natchaug Epic* March 24: currently looking for volunteers (contact Tyra to pass on your name) and community groups that may want to fundraise; see *Natchaug Epic* website
- dedication of gate to Carolyn Werge at Jacobs Cemetery (Thompson Together)

Social Media: Brian reported uptick in Facebook page followers after Workday pictures posted and again after Trot (presently to 989)

Charlie suggested development of a Thompson map specifically with bike routes

CT Trails Census:

- Charlie continues to do monthly service check on counter
- calibration still needs doing (weather issues prevented completion last season)
- UCONN census page shows 23,864 uses passing counter in East Thompson in 2023

Equipment:

- Paul has repaired broken spring on mower; equipment temporarily parked at East Thompson Fire Station

Future agenda items: ALSPT signs; ALSPT erosion areas; DPW availability; bike route mapping

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:23 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.