

## Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, April 1, 2024 7:00 pm

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Link to April 1 Zoom meeting recording:

Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-9k97Z6XkrmBTWahjps-Fj06EAKyvnmfwZizyx9uOBKuduAeJEn6znb8Vqs7Gyr.0qPa5MEbVZw5wo\\_6?startTime=1712012449000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-9k97Z6XkrmBTWahjps-Fj06EAKyvnmfwZizyx9uOBKuduAeJEn6znb8Vqs7Gyr.0qPa5MEbVZw5wo_6?startTime=1712012449000)

Passcode: ZAv9&U\$y

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf-Zv8Xo57s>

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In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Lucille Langlois, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Scott Benoit; Valerie Clark; Becky Kalagher

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

*MOTION made & seconded to accept minutes of February 5, 2024. All in favor.*

### **Correspondence:**

John was contacted, and then passed on to Tyra, a query from Luke Hajdasz of WFSB TV3 about erosion on the Thompson section of the Air Line he saw on Trails Facebook page. Karen emailed him back to arrange furthering the conversation. Tyra also suggested he speak to Jocelyn of CTRC&D.

Further discussion about worst sections (Lowell Davis to Sanddam), water runoff from roads above, ATVs.

**Finances:** No new report. Available balance as of 1/29/24 is \$9,696.63 plus addition of \$5,233.09 from 2023 Turkey Trot.

### **Citizens Comments:**

- Valerie Clarke affirmed mention at a budget meeting about planned state work on RT. 200 in 2025
- LyAnn reported Spring Outdoors underway and TLGV would post any additional events
- Southbridge Trails meeting this Thursday at their library
- Pat Cheever inquired about changes to some walking areas she has used previously but they involve private properties

### **Trail updates:**

- Charlie recently heard from Michael St. Lawrence that the WLT is closing the deal with the Boy Scouts soon for the property abutting the LeClair parcel
- ALSPT park status: Park construction is now out to bid (includes turntable assembly, parking area, plantings, minimal traffic calming improvements, bike repair station; NOT kiosk or picnic pavilion); Paul

was asked to attend pre-bid meeting with Janet Blanchette at the site April 17, 2:00pm to answer any questions about RFP documents; Tyra to send bid documents to Paul prior

- **Brian made a motion, seconded by Charlie, to fund the \$1390 overrun to create the bid-documents**
- Charlie contacted Earthworks about needed maintenance and it was done swiftly
- John reported on problem areas and he is trying to assess where water is flowing from: increasing water damage under Rt. 200, which Charlie also reported to Inland Wetlands; two 4-foot holes in washout area behind condos where he did some work but more needed; John will send photos to Tyra to forward to Scott Bushee, ConnDOT; **WORKDAY scheduled for Sunday April 28, 9:00 am** (park by cemetery and walk in with tools, about 2/10 mile)
- Mechanicsville parking area still needs weedwacking around gates where mower can't access
- Tyra reported the 65 Main project is halfway through public input phase; permaculture final report complete; education unit starting; she is applying for a Kubota award contest and requested pictures and data on the Trails-owned Kubota

#### **Events:**

- Charlie reported the *Natchaug Epic* had over 550 riders start; not the best conditions, (puddles with ice that morning) but race is growing and an opportunity for increased local involvement & promotion
- 2024 Turkey Trot: Brian reported TEEG to be presented their check in photo op the following day; 2024 date still to be confirmed by USACE; John requested "save-the-date" fliers for a June 1 event if possible
- **WORKDAY scheduled for Sunday April 28, 9:00 am** (park by West Thompson cemetery, meeting where Air Line crosses Thompson Rd./Rt. 193 and walk in, with tools, about 2/10 mile to problem area)
- Sunday, June 2 John is leading a Tri-State Marker hike by request; will only be posted for additional participants on Trails Facebook page

**Social Media:** remaining Z-fold maps in Tyra's office; probably no more reprints this year; Charlie proposing a Thompson-only bike route map; Paul will see about replacement of sign listing local restaurants on the East Thompson Rd. kiosk

**News from Neighboring Towns:** Douglas State Forest has a new supervisor, Joe Taylor; major work has been completed on the Blackstone bikeway connecting the SNET to trails in RI

**CT Trails Census:** 10 hours of calibration still needs to be done

#### **Equipment:**

- CTDEEP delivered 11 trail assessment signs made by TLGV for the road crossings on the ALSPT with instructions to mount on 4x4 posts. Brian will review how other towns have installed theirs and Paul took signs to drill screw holes. **Brian made a motion, seconded by Lucille, to spend up to \$300 for posts and fast-set concrete. All in favor.** Further discussion on how best to dig holes and set.

*Motion & second to adjourn.* Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, June 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m.