

(TBA)

**TOWN OF PUTNAM Trails Committee
Minutes of a Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

Date: Tuesday September 28, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

The Putnam Trails Committee met for a Regularly Scheduled meeting via Zoom # 882 402 01 110 and in person on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm in meeting room # 112 in the new Municipal Complex, 200 School Street, Putnam, CT.

Chairman Moorehead opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

1. Attendance: Economic & Community Development (ECD) Director Delpha Very, Chairman Scott Moorehead, Committee Members: Angela Kneeland (via Zoom), Bruce Fitzback and Michael Rocchetti, Thompson Trails Committee members Paul Provost (in-person) and Karen Durlach (via Zoom). Volunteer Lyann Graff of The Last Green Valley (via Zoom), and ECD Administrative Assistant Jackie Lefevre.

Absent: Committee Members: Susan Phaneuf

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes- July 27, 2021*: Member Kneeland motioned to approve the minutes of July 27, 2021, seconded by Member Rocchetti motion passed.

3. New Business:

Fitness Trail Information: ECD Director Very shared information discovered during the ECD office move. She read aloud a document dated March 1980, when an easement was provided, by the City of Putnam, (presently known as Special Services District) to the area behind the Putnam Schools to create a fitness trail. The trail is 10 feet wide and 8,000 feet long. She recently spoke with the Recreation Director to see what he knew about the trail. He stated the Parks & Recreation Dept. does not maintain the trail. Member Rocchetti said he and his wife hike on this trail often and noted recently there was a tree cut. He inquired if the school's cross-country team still uses it for practice. The ECD Director to further research.

4. Old Business:

a) Airline Trail Putnam/Thompson Connection: Member Fitzback provided the update. The firm of Weston & Sampson came up with 5 various routes to approach the connection. Research and conversations with the CSX railroad will be completed to narrow down the route that will be best suited for the connection.

b) Airline Trail Pomfret/Putnam: Scope of work has been completed by Weston and Sampson. Member Rocchetti shared, via email earlier, 14 suggestions/items that need to be addressed in terms of safety etc. Chairman brought forth that at a previous meeting, the folks at Wheelabrator had committed to assisting with any maintenance on the trail in certain sections of the trail. It was suggested Wheelabrator be approached.

c) Rails to Trails Program: Member Kneeland shared she recently attended the online meeting of the Rails to Trails. One of the items learned, during this meeting, there are 3 classes of railroads in the country. If CSX railroad, here in Putnam, is a class one, then the chances of making the trail connection adjacent to the rail line would not be achievable. Class one railroads have very strict conditions. Research to be completed

further to determine which class CSX railroad is classified as. Member Kneeland to share the Rails to Trails meeting recorded link, via email, with the Trail Committees.

Member Rocchetti reminded all of Monique Wolanin's email seeking volunteers for the upcoming Tackle the Trail event.

Karen Durlach, of the Thompson Trail Committee, invited all to join the "Great Train Wreck" event coming up on Sunday, October 3rd from 1-2:30pm at junction of Thompson and New Road in Thompson.

Paul Provost, Thompson Trail Committee, shared their recent purchase of a new trailer, with trail logo, to house the committee's various trail tools to include a brush hog and tractor.

Karen Durlach shared, in the beginning Thompson Trail Committee members brought along their own equipment. Approximately five years ago a grant of \$ 10,000 through State of CT Dept. of Environmental and Energy Protection, was available to assist with purchasing tools to use for trail maintenance.

5. Public Participation: Chairman Moorehead asked if there was any participation from Public. There were none.

Adjournment: There being no further items to come before such meeting, Member Rocchetti motioned to adjourn, seconded by Member Fitzback Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by Jacqueline A. Lefevre, Recording Secretary

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JACQUELINE A. LEFEVRE
CLERK - PUTNAM CT