

**Air Line Trail Steering Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025
Portland Library – Mary Flood Room**

Present: Chantal Foster, Tom Ladny, Lou Pear, Rosario Rizzo, Rick Sharr (until 6:50), Carol Winiski;
Alternates Jay Asikainen and Carol Bozena

Absent: Steve Byrne, Bob Sequenzia

Public: Joe LaRosa

1. **Chairman Call Meeting to Order** – Lou Pear called the Regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Seating of Alternates** – Jay Asikainen was seated for Steve Byrne.
3. **Agenda Accepted** – Agenda was amended to include: Steve Byrne resignation, Consider Ribbon Cutting for new parking area, Need for Maintenance Day and Senior Hiking Club dates. There was a motion by Tom Ladny seconded by Riz Rizzo to accept the revised agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
4. **Accept Meeting Minutes** – There was a motion by Tom Ladny seconded by Carol Winiski to approve the meeting minutes from December 3, 2024. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
5. **Public Comment** – Joe LaRosa introduced himself and is interested in the group.
6. **Old Business** – None.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Meeting with Eversource and proposal of new trail** – Lou updated the situation, a new contact at Eversource, Jaquan Samuels, could be helpful to us, we shall see.
 - b. **Approval of Parking Lot from Mike Pelton and Mike Lastrina** – Lou and Bob S did some prep work on the area, Mike Lastrina will level the ground and top will millings to create the parking pad.
 - c. **Twelve Town Air Line Trail Alliance Meeting** – Riz updated us on this alliance, an addition three towns to the north will be joining. Formed primarily for attaining grant funds and legislation issues.
 - d. **Loop Trail Plans with Middletown** – Big picture plans shared for trail connects from Portland to Middletown to Meriden. John Shafer from the Jonah Center has volunteered to assist our committee in this endeavor.
 - e. **Trail replacements signs** – Lou and Riz will do a tally of missing signs and request replacements through public works.
 - f. **Tentative meeting scheduled with Dan Lally and Mike Pelton** – Lou will see if Jaquan Samuels from Eversource is also available, hoping this will happen within the next month.
 - g. **CT Trails Day** – 6/7 at 10 am with a rain date of 6/8 at 11 am. Starting point at the barn – 258 Middle Haddam Road. Riz has confirmed John LeShane will lead, Chantal will contact Middlesex Land Trust and Meshomasic Hiking Club to confirm they wish to collaborate again and advertise on their schedules.
 - h. **Tabling at Brownstone Quorum's Craft Fair at Riverfront Park** – The event will be 5/31 from 10 – 4 with a rain date of 6/1. Suggestion made to combine efforts with the river access group. Not sure who will organize, but reach out to Carol Winiski when decided.

- i. **Steve Byrne Resignation** – A motion was made by Carol B and seconded by Tom L to accept Steve's resignation. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Further, a motion was made by Chantal and seconded by Carol Winiski to recommend Carol Bozena to replace Steve as a regular member of the Committee to the BOS. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Lou/Riz will ask the BOS to advise how they wish to proceed on the replacement.
 - j. **Consider Ribbon Cutting for new parking area** – It was agreed that publicity for the new parking area would be a good thing. Lou and Carol B. to coordinate.
 - k. **Maintenance Day** – It was decided that a full-fledged maintenance day is most likely not needed in advance of Trails Day. If issues arise, they will be addressed.
 - l. **Senior Hiking Club Dates** – The dates currently on the calendar are: 4/16, 5/21 and 6/18. Looking for people to lead, Beau will likely lead the May hike. Chantal will consider leading the June hike and let Lou/Riz know.
8. **General Discussion/Communications/Correspondence** – Carol W. alerted the committee to two other events happening in town: on April 27 from 2 – 4 pm at the Waverly Center, there will be a presentation put on by the Brownstone Quorum and the Portland Historical Society that gives the history of the Portland quarries and the Brownstone Quorum organization. Also, the Brownstone Arts will be holding their annual art show at the barn of Elwin Guild and Joan Giesemann on 332 Middle Haddam Road on Friday, June 20th from 5 – 8 pm.
9. **Adjournment Meeting** – There was a motion by Lou Pear seconded by Jay A. to adjourn the Regular meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **June 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Portland Library.**

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Foster
Recording Secretary

