

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Draft Copy
Minutes – March 26, 2010

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Present: Members: Ginny Gingras, Don Bellingham, George Arthur, Sonoko Fagan, Ann Letendre;
Advisor: Bruce Dinnie

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:40 am by Ann Letendre, chairperson.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 22, 2010 were approved as drafted. Motion by George, second by Don.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Don Bellingham, Trail Manager – See Bellingham report. Don asked if the Committee would consider an approval to cite information about the CT Notable tree at Saxony Park on the VGV website; motion by Ginny, second by George, approved.
- b. George Arthur (Parks & Rec activity) – see Arthur report; George announced he has resigned from the Hockanum River Watershed Association
- c. Bruce Dinnie – Downtown Rockville Trail; Ann distributed two sign designs Lisa had drafted; another will be coming; Committee to comment and select.

B. Hockanum River Parks & Parking Areas – Review of Needs

- **Dart Hill South – Property line issue** - Bruce reported that a resolution could not be worked with the abutting owner; the parking lot will be cut at the property line. Ann expressed concern about the unkempt appearance of the abutter's yard which distracts from the park entrance. The Committee planned to meet on the site March 30th at 1:00pm to discuss possible screening.
- **Dart Hill North** – no report
- **Walgreen Corner** – George reported that the bank has become overgrown; Bruce will ask Dave Bower to cut it back
- **Saxony Mill Park** – Soil needs to be replaced in the garden; need to cut down the black locust on the wall. Knotweed could be cut again.
- **Paper Mill Park** – the bank needs to be cut back again; Bruce will ask Dave B. to treat the invasives there.
- **Tankerhoosen Dam Park** – George had suggested a sitting bench near the dam; Ann will ask the Rotary if they are interested in funding it since they paid for the mill sign.
- **Other Parking Areas** – George reported that he cleaned the Paul's Pizza parking area. He noted that the dumpster for the Indian restaurant is a problem. George will use the Town's Q-send system to write a note about the problem. George asked Bruce if community service workers could be used to clear litter.

C. New Parks and Trails – Status

- A. **Vernon Marsh – new grant** – Signed copy received from DEP. Kiosk design and size to be decided. Work to begin this spring.
- B. **Franklin St** – no new report
- C. **Lyman to Pleasant St** – need to obtain funding to complete this section
- D. **Pleasant St to Courthouse One** – Ann reported information from Town Planner on the PZC approval of the Marriot hotel and that the PZC stipulated the easement for the trail across the property.

D. Grant Status

- A. **Vernon Marsh** – see above
- B. **Dart Hill Park Playscape** – Ann contacted Claire Janowski to see if state funding would be available. Claire thought it might be possible and asked for a budget proposal. After discussion, Bruce said that Henry Park had a higher priority, since that playscape had to be removed since it did not meet standards; a proposal was sent to Claire for \$80,000 for a new playscape at Henry Park.
- C. **Downtown Rockville Trail** – Bruce suggested that there be a common symbol on each sign, maybe the tower. Ann will ask Lisa. Size of the signs was discussed. It was

thought that the 2 x 3 foot sign might be too big, as originally thought. Ann will ask Lisa about it.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education –

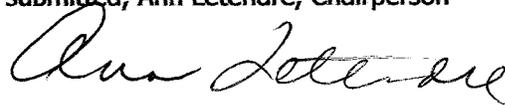
- A. Talcottville Mill Area – clearing of riparian area – no new action**
- B. Gerald Drive –** Tree cutting on Gerald Drive in riparian area – Don will contact IW agent – he suspects there may be some additional cutting
- C. Other –** Goose problem on Hockanum near WPC plant. Don reported that he estimates that the numbers reached 2000 geese there, but that the numbers are now considerably reduced to the usual 300 or so, so it appears that the area is a migratory stop for the geese. He also reported on the results of information received from Tom Ouelette of the Conservation Commission on goose management problem. Tom noted that the major problem that results is algae in the water resulting from the droppings.

3. New Business

- A. HRLP POCD Input –** Ann reported that she gave the presentation to the PZC Feb. 11th on the HRLP key goals, to continue to implement the HRLP Master Plan and complete trail links. She asked PZC if the HRLP trail map could be included in the POCD appendix, and PZC agreed.
- B. Hockanum River Trail Maps –** Don reported that the maps have been completed and are ready for distribution.
- C. Marriott Hotel Application –** see item C above
Chapman Property – 1100 feet section – Don said that a base and stonedust needs to be put down. The State has bituminous millings that could be used, but Ann expressed concern that the material was not appropriate near the River and preferred the crushed rock that is normally used. The Committee then questioned if it really needed to be done, some felt that the section was OK as is. The Committee will walk the area after the Mar. 30th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am, motion by Arthur, second by Bellingham.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson



March 26, 2010 Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Meeting – Don Bellingham

Vernon Greenways Volunteers

- Committee formed to organize the May 21 (Rain Date, June 4) outing for middle school aged children from the Board of Education Services for the Blind (BESB) at Valley Falls Park. Activities will include fly fishing (Ct Fly Fisherman's Assoc); bait fishing, (Rockville Fish and Game Club), a tour of the Braille trail, barbecue picnic lunch and games. A favor will be provided. Three meetings have been held to-date.
- New Dart Hill North and South on-site trail maps have been approved. Installation is scheduled for the spring or whenever the 1,100 foot trail segment on Chapman Property of Dart Hill South has been upgraded to a satisfactory level. The new maps are available on our web page (www.vernongreenways.org)
- Cleanup of trail from West Street to Vernon Avenue was performed including the infamous Rau St Apt area. Seven VGV filled a pickup truck twice to overflowing.
- Hired a webmaster for our web page. Updates for 2010 and archiving of 2009 are up-to-date.
- Announced the 2010 Spring Kick-Off Meeting for April, 12, 1010 at the Teen Center at 7 PM. Theme is "Before It Was a Trail". We will encourage story telling about growing up on what is now the Rails to Trails. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Dart Hill South Park

- Land owner that is questioning property lines at the circular parking lot has cut out part of the asphalt driveway, taking away several parking spots.

Dart Hill North Park

- No significant activity.

Q. Delina

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HRLP 3/26/2010 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT

P&R trail activity:

The parking lot for the HRLP trailhead at the WTP was re-staked to change the depth from 15 to 17 ft to be in accordance with Zoning requirements.

GIS shapefiles were created to represent the work areas that are P&R responsibility. A map of the areas was printed by the GIS Department for Bruce Dinnie.

Litter has been picked up in Parks, Schools and Memorials in preparation for the mowing season. All of the HRLP Parks have been picked up. Results were as follows:

Dart Hill South is clean. P&R removed invasives and some trees along the Quail Hollow treeline.

Dart Hill North is clean and four downed trees were cut off the trail. There was a lot of litter on the sidewalk over the Hockanum River. The trail goes along that sidewalk toward Dart Hill South.

Saxony Mill is clean. There was a lot of litter on the river bank by West St bridge and also along Regan St. The stones from the wall were picked up, as well as pieces of asphalt from the road.

Walgreen's (Rockville) is clean. There was a lot of litter along the river bank and there is also knotweed.

Paper Mill Pond is clean. There was a lot of litter over the fence onto the pond bank. Perhaps an anti-litter sign on the fence would help. The invasives on the pond bank are growing back.

Phoenix Mill Park is clean.

Hockanum Watershed:

At the January meeting, I reported on the Vernon trail activities and informed the members about the Vernon 'ribbon cutting' celebration on May 12 at Hockanum Crossings at 6:30 PM.

Doug Smith reported that the Annual HWA January Art Show was a success. The number of meetings was reduced for 2010 because of the small number of attendees.

I submitted a letter of resignation from the Association on February 20. I retired in 1994 and have been putting in more and more volunteer hrs every year since then. I decided it was time to resign from organizations if they had night time meetings and if I felt that I was not able to accomplish significant good for the community.

Respectfully submitted,

George Arthur



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