

HRLP 3/25/2011 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT – 2Bb

(See Agenda for item designations)

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2Ab connection to Ellington via bridge on RR line

- Formal permission for the trail needs to be obtained from Ellington owners.
- The property is owned by the State of CT and DEP will have to be advised of bridge plans.
- The bridge plans need to be presented to Vernon IWC.
- The funding for a steel bridge of this span will have to be obtained from grants.

2Bb P&R trail activity:

- All bridges and boardwalks need to have winter/flood damage repaired as necessary.
- All litter needs to be picked up before the mowing season starts.
- Don Bellingham and I are making Revision 3 to the Vernon Trail System booklet.
- I prepared a GIS map and list for trail structures in Vernon. There is a total of 82, with 25 on the HRLP trail.

2C Hockanum Parks & Parking Areas

- Dart Hill South – No change.
- Dart Hill North – No change
- Walgreen Corner – More trimming is still needed along fence line.
- Saxony Mill – The new roses were watered prior to winter.
- Paper Mill Park - No change.
- Tankerhoosen Dam – Timber seating bench has not been constructed.
- Paul's Pizza – Litter from UTAV Indian Restaurant and brush dumping by Briar Knoll Condos, I will talk to Town.

2D New Parks and trails

- Vernon Marsh – Kiosk was designed and installed. Display items? Kayak/canoe platform has not been built.
- Franklin St – No change
- Lyman to Pleasant St. – No change
- Pleasant St. to Courthouse One. No change

2F River Protection

- 2011 walks will include Valley Falls trails on Sat. April 16 at 10 AM; Valley Falls flowers on Sat. April 30 at 9 AM; Valley Falls flowers on Sat May 7 at 9AM; Belding birds on Sat May 14; Dart Hill North trails on Sat May 28 at 10 AM; Trails Day trails in Talcott Ravine on Sat June 4 at 1 PM; Dart Hill South walk on Sat June 18 at noon; Risley Pond trails on Sat June 25 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Arthur

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Vernon Greenways Volunteer Report for Nov 19, 2010 to March 25, 2011

Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

Flooding situation, hopefully, alleviated but stone dust purchased via a Pratt and Whitney Grant has not been laid. With the assistance of Public Works, we hope to have that done this spring. Dedication slated for June so, hopefully, the work will be done by then. We will also have to address some water problems on the last half of the trail past Hockanum Blvd. On-Site Trail maps will be made available.

Trail Map Redo

George Arthur and I are redoing all of the existing trail maps for Vernon, adding one for the Braille Trail and another for Talcott Ravine. Last update was 2005.

Board of Education School for the Blind (BESB) Outing for Valley Falls on May 13, 2011

We have been asked by the BESB teaching staff to repeat our outing that we provided for their middle school age children from all over Ct in 2010. The Planning Committee has had our first meeting. Rockville Fish and Game Club and Ct Fly Fisherman's Assoc. have, again, agreed to supply equipment and people. The Braille Trail tour will include sensory stimuli such as smelling flax seed oil, etc. this year. I am told to expect about the same number of students, 27 last year, and we will expect to feed about 80 in the barbecue as we did last year. We are trying to line up the Husky Dog to stop by. Next planning committee meeting on 3/28/11.

Replantings on the Rail Trail

I will be meeting with Tracy on the Thursday before this meeting. Expect to discuss addressing the first spring recovery from our nasty winter. She is putting together formal index sized cards for each of the plants by location to give to the planting adopters. Five of the six adopters have agreed to again care for the plantings in 2011 they signed up for last year. I have to replace the sixth and, if possible, get two more so we can complete the last two sites that we didn't get to last year.

Beetle Mania

I had my first meeting with Rose Hiskes (VGV and Entomologist with Ct Agricultural Experiment Station) on identifying if there is any Emerald Ash Borer or Asian Long Horn Beetle activity on Vernon's Trails. Eleven VGVs have shown an interest in participating. We expect to do initial trip in spring when the leaves come out, making trees more identifiable.

Spring Kick-Off Meeting on April 13, 2011

Our annual spring kick-off meeting will be at the Teen Center. Guest speaker is Don Sierakowski who will speak on "The Rail Before the Trail" about the operation of the railroad in Vernon/Rockville that was the basis of the rail trail. I will open with what the VGV did last year and what we are planning for 2011. Bruce Dinnie will take any questions from the audience about the trail system at the end. We expect a large audience since this meeting will appeal to both trail and railroad buffs. The meeting is open to the public.