

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Draft Copy
Minutes – January 27, 2012

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Present: Members: Joe King, Ann Letendre, George Arthur, Ginny Gingras
Staff: Bruce Dinnie

Guests: Rockville Downtown Association (RDA) Design Committee members, Jeff Hutton, David Lee.

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:35 am by Ann Letendre, chairperson.

Motion to move agenda **item C. 2** to first on the agenda; motion by Joe, second by George, motion carried.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of November 18, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion by King, second by Arthur.

C. 2 – Collaboration with RDA – Mill Pond Park and Falls Lighting

Following introduction of RDA Design Committee members, Jeff Hutton briefed HRLP Committee on progress to date with the "Light the Falls" project, through a \$10,000 CT Main Street grant. In addition to the site design and planning work done by consultants TO Design Company, the effort included clearing of brush and debris to open the view; installation of a new wood guard rail and black chain link fencing; and installation of lighting on the falls. A powerpoint presentation prepared by David Lee was given depicting the "before and after" perspectives. Ginny noted interest of the Garden Club in supporting the effort. Ann noted that this site is the Mill Pond Park site that was first proposed in the 1988 Hockanum River Linear Park feasibility study, prepared by the State DEP. Future collaboration on the project was discussed.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details. Most of the work efforts were related to storm cleanup.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached).

C. Current Projects - Status

- a. Vernon Marsh Grant – (Ref. Task List prepared by G. Arthur, 5-16-11).
Task 1 – Kiosk, completed except postings. Maps will be obtained from Don Bellingham; Don is awaiting completion of a stone dust section of the Dart Hill trail before releasing them. Ann will also prepare some HRLP Committee info for the kiosk.
Task 2 – Trail sign 40 ft south of kiosk (completed)
Task 3 – Task 4: Kayak, canoe launch and small bridge – see above; IWC permit application prepared and will be on the Feb. 28th IWC agenda.
Task 5 – Two vistas and benches, completed. George will submit labor bill; Ann will get material bill from Diane.
Task 6 – Replace stairway to river floodplain – completed. Need bills for labor and materials.
Ann reported that the Ellington HRLP has cleared the trail on the railbed to the Vernon line and will lay down chips. Joe and George will work the Vernon end to meet it.
- b. Collaboration with RDA – Hockanum Falls Lighting Project (see above)

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rec. Trails Grant - Lyman to Pleasant St to Courthouse One; submitted Sept 2011. Laurie Giannotti expects approval this spring. Key action is to get Giulietti family rights for trail on east side of river; also property owned by Dean; George will look up MPB number and send to Ann. Ann reported that Don Bellingham has agreed to assist with management of the grant.
- b. Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement: Bruce says it will cost \$75,000. He has no budget for that and will need a grant source.
- c. Consider extending Rockville Heritage Trail to Talcott Park area; Ann will ask Laurie Giannotti about funding possibilities.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education

- a. Ann noted that we have not made a presentation to the Town Council in about 10 years; that we should plan on doing that this year, perhaps in the spring.
- b. Aquatic invasives – Ann said that CC member Tom Ouelette has written an article for CACIWC's newsletter on the project; she will email a copy to the committee.

3. New Business

A. Inland Wetlands permit for Vernon Marsh grant – George has met with Craig Perry and Len Tundermann, and has prepared an application. The permit is for the kayak and canoe launch construction, a small bridge over a drainage outlet at the edge of the river marsh, behind the WPCA. Parks & Recreation Department will be the applicant; the application will be placed on the Feb. 28th IWC agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by George, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

November 18, 2011 to January 27, 2012

Snow Storm Follow-up

Four consecutive Saturday work parties to cleanup VCMS, Dart Hill North (twice) and Talcott Ravine were conducted. The Talcott Ravine outing was in collaboration with the Northern Connecticut Land Trust.

Sponsor Renewal

Renewals are scattered throughout the year but heaviest concentration is in this time frame. Of the nine Trail Sponsors contacted all have renewed for 2012. Of the three Project Sponsors contacted, so far, one has renewed for 2012.

Volunteer and Trail Manager Re-up

To keep membership current in January each year I ask the Trail Managers to confirm they want to continue in that capacity and Volunteers in general to reaffirm they want to continue to receive correspondence for the new year. If I don't hear back from them by February 1, their name is

removed from the mailing list. To-date I have heard back from 29 of the 40 general Volunteers population that they would like to continue to receive e-mail. All thirteen of the Trail Managers have agreed to continue in that capacity.

Facebook

In an effort to reach a younger audience (20 to 40 year olds) new member, Ezra Broder, has assisted in setting up a Facebook page for the Vernon Greenways Volunteers. We currently have 17 people signed up. Trail Maps have been revised to include the Facebook indicator. In spring, when trail interest is higher, we will further promote.

ARTHUR HRLP TRAIL REPORT FOR NOV 18 TO JAN 27

TOTAL HOURS WORKED:

ARTHUR 76

KING 57

RESULT:

WITH HELP FROM VGV AND P&R, ALL TRAILS IN VERNON ARE CLEARED OF BRUSH AND TREE DEBRIS CAUSED BY STORMS IRENE AND ALFRED. THE ENTIRE HRLP TRAIL IN VERNON AND PART OF ELLINGTON HAS BEEN CLEARED.

THERE A FEW HIGH HANGING BRANCHES THAT WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED BY BOOM-BUCKET TRUCKS.

THERE ARE SOME PILES OF BRANCHES ALONG THE RAIL TRAILS THAT SHOULD BE CHIPPED AND FIREWOOD THAT CAN BE TRUCKED OUT TO HENRY PARK.

GEORGE