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Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Minutes: March 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order by George Arthur at 9:35 a.m.

Attending: George Arthur, Ginny Gingras, Bruce Dinnie, Doug Smith- representing the The Hockanum Ellington Trail.

Minutes of the November 19, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

Old Business: Current Grant status of the Marsh Grant was discussed. Bruce stated that the 2 year Grant is to be completed by December 2011. Connection to the Ellington Trail via a bridge was discussed. Plans were made to walk about the Kiosk and the parking lot at the Vernon Sewage Treatment Plant on **May 6th at 9:30 a.m.** Questions were raised about permission to build the bridge. George Arthur will talk to DEP. He stated that we need to receive permission from the Vernon Inland Wetlands Commission. Doug Smith brought up the area of the Radio Station Land in Ellington and suggested the possibility that a Floating Board Walk be installed. Bruce commented that a DEP engineer said that it takes 5-10 years to install a bridge....and importantly, a Pedestrian crossing is needed. George suggested that the design of the bridge be 40-50 feet long. Steps will be needed to get to the bridge as the highest elevation is 25-30 feet above the river. The Vernon Town engineer will be asked to give a formal quote.

Watershed Association: Doug Smith reported that Bruce Jukubartis has taken over the leadership. Plans are to meet quarterly. Representatives are needed from each of the 4 towns. The Fall meeting is to be held in Vernon.

Hockanum River Trail Reports were submitted by Don Bellingham (Vernon Greenway Volunteers) and George Arthur (P& R).

Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas – Review of Needs:

Parks

Dart Hill South- no change

Dart Hill North-fencing is needed, application of stone dust to be discussed with G. Chapman.

Walgreen Corner – needs trimming

Saxony Mill Park- plants have been watered

Paper Mill Park – no change

Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) – seating bench has been installed

Other Parking Areas (Paul's Pizza, etc.)- there are trash overfills near the Indian Restaurant, which is a mess. A letter needs to be sent to the Health Department. Briar Knoll Condo staff is dumping trash in the area.

New Parks and Trails-Status
Vernon Marsh- signs are installed
Franklin Street-no change
Lyman to Pleasant St –no change
Pleasant ST to Courthouse One –no change
Downtown Rockville Heritage Trail –see Ann’s e-mail

Grant Status (Current and Potential)
Vernon Marsh and Ellington Marsh connector- discussed above
Dart Hill Park – Playscape Replacement –no change

River Protection: Actions, Public Education –see G. Arthur’s report
Conservation Commission – Aquatic Invasive Mgt. Plan (Ann): mapping is done.

New Business
RDA collaboration on Mill Pond Park & Falls Lighting- not discussed
Report on HRLP booth at Healthfest (Ginny)- Materials are prepared to be displayed and representatives of Parks & Recreation, Friends of Valley Falls, Open Space Task Force, and Conservation Commission will be present.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Motion by Arthur, second by Dinnie

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Gingras, member HRLP

Ginny Gingras