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Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Draft Copy
Minutes – May 27, 2011

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VERNON TOWN CLERK

11 JUN -6 AM 8:40

Present: Members: Ginny Gingras Joe King, Ann Letendre, George Arthur
Guest: Bryan Flint

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 March 25, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion by King, second by Arthur.

2. Old Business

A. Vernon-Ellington Marsh Trail Grant Project

George put together a work scope for the tasks to be done at the WPCA site. Copy attached. George and Ann will meet w/ Dave Ignatowicz to inform him of the proposed activities. George estimates that that part of the work will cost \$1400. Previous expenses total \$1600, leaving \$7,000 in the grant. Consensus to use some of the remaining funds to get design / estimates for the connector bridge to Ellington trail system. Ownership of the RR line ROW needs to be validated, as well as some validation from the Town of Ellington that the Hockanum River Trail system will connect at that point. George and/or Joe will contact Ellington Conservation Commission. George and Ann will meet with Town Engineer to discuss type of bridge needed. Ann and Ginny will walk the Winderemere Trail in July (w George, Joe) to check out the area.

B. Hockanum Trail Reports

- a. Don Bellingham, Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report, attached
- b. George Arthur (Parks & Rec activity) – See Arthur report, attached

C. Hockanum River Parks & Parking Areas – Review of Needs refer to Bellingham and Arthur reports for:

- Dart Hill South – (Ginny noted garlic mustard needs to be removed)
- Dart Hill North
- Walgreen Corner
- Saxony Mill Park
- Paper Mill Park
- Tankerhoosen Dam Park
- Other Parking Areas

D. New Parks and Trails – Status

- a. Vernon Marsh – see above
- b. Franklin St – in good shape, George made some repairs
- c. Lyman to Pleasant St Pleasant St to Courthouse One – Need to get cost estimates for boardwalk at Pleasant

E. Grant Status (Current and Potential)

- a. Vernon Marsh (see above)
- b. Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement
- c. Cost to Complete – HRLP Master Plan – Ann reported that she received email contact from Laurie Giannotti of DEP that said that the federal Rec Trails program has been funded. Laurie has a placeholder for \$175,000 to complete the HRLP Master Plan. The amount will include the boardwalk at Pleasant St, plus the costs to construct bridge at Vernon Marsh. She will need more cost detail by August, as well as the usual proposal information. It will be important to make contact with the Giuliatti family to discuss obtaining rights to their property as they are the major owner to complete that section of the HRLP trail that connects to Manchester trails by Courthouse One.

F. **River Protection: Actions, Public Education** – Ann reported on Aquatic Invasives Management Plan being prepared by the Conservation Commission

3. New Business

RDA Collaboration on Mill Pond Park and Falls Lighting – Ann reported on progress; RDA received \$10,000 grant; consultant has been hired to do feasibility study; Design Committee has met with Howard Fromson to obtain permission to clear brush. Awaiting his reply. Ann noted that Cliff Edwards has resigned from RDA Ex. Director position.

Bryan Flint attended the meeting to understand our plans in Rockville, and to better understand our role. He noted the work done by other volunteer organizations in Rockville, urged collaboration, all in agreement. Bryan will keep us updated.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am, motion by Arthur, second by Gingras.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Trail Reports, March 25 to May 27, 2011

George Arthur Trail Report

Don and I completed Revision 3 for the Vernon Trail System. All trail information is complete and Talcott Ravine was added to the mix. VGV will be responsible for future updates.

- Joe and I picked up litter just before the mowing season in the parks.
- Ginny, Jane, Don, Joe and I have been leading walks for the P&R Spring program. Coming up are DHN to WTP at 10 AM on Saturday, May 28; Talcott Ravine on Trails Day Saturday, June 4 from Church St at 1 PM; Walking Trail on Saturday, June 18 from DHS at noon; Risley Reservoir on Saturday, June 25 at 10 AM.
- Joe and I measured the span across the Hockanum at Rt 74 ROW.
- Joe and I constructed two seating benches at WTP

Don Bellingham Trail Report –

Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

Entire grant of \$3260 has been spent so stone dust and base fiber have been purchased. Work has not been done as of today. A legal hurdle was cleared this week, but the town equipment needed to lay the stone dust may or may not be available because the extensive road repairs are starting this week. Dedication is scheduled for June 18, 2011, but is in doubt because of uncertainty of completion date.

Rail Trail

Replantings - Two site-adopters have been found, need a third. Tracy Gorecki will work with them.

Tunnel Road Parking Area - Karin James has shown interest in making this area more presentable and keeping it cleaned up. Don met with Karin and Dick James and will discuss w/ Bruce next week.

VERNON MARSH STATUS
WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP)

The remaining grant items were discussed at a meeting at the WTP on May 6, 2011 attended by Bruce Dinnie, Ann Letendre, Joe King and George Arthur.

1. The kiosk display panel is 25 inches tall and 31 inches wide. The HRLP Trail will be shown on two maps each measuring 12 inches tall x 10 inches wide and mounted one above the other. The bottom map will depict Dart Hill Rd south to the Lyman bridge. The top map will depict Dart Hill Rd north to Rt 74. The remaining panel space (25 " tall x 19 " wide) will contain information about the grant, the HRLP Committee, the Vernon Greenway Volunteers and contact information including web addresses. UV protection will be required to prevent degradation of the printed material.
2. A sign post will be installed approximately 40 ft south of the kiosk, close to the river tree-line, and just before the row of cedar trees. It will indicate the direction of the southbound trail and the kayak/canoe launch.
3. The kayak/canoe launch will be constructed of pressure treated (PT) timbers and will be located on the northeast corner of the confluence of the river and the drainage channel (approx 125 ft from the parking area). It will consist of a platform (dock) with two steps down to the normal water level. It will be firmly anchored in position by attaching it to channel irons driven about two feet into the existing bank soil. George Arthur will provide design, bill-of-materials, IWC approval, and construction.
4. A bridge will be constructed to cross the drainage channel to facilitate relocating the existing trail so that it follows the river tree-line from the kiosk, past the kayak/canoe launch, and joins the existing trail on the north side of the WTP fence. The bridge will be PT lumber, will have two railings, and will be 16 ft long and 4 ft wide. George Arthur will provide design, bill-of-materials, IWC approval, and construction.
5. Two vistas will be created within the tree-line on the north side of the WTP field and will overlook the river marsh. Each vista will have a PT lumber seating bench measuring 8 ft in length. One will be located about 450 ft south of the parking area and the second will be located about 110 ft further south. George Arthur will provide design, bill-of-materials, and construction.
6. An existing stairway about 600 ft south of the parking descends to the river floodplain, will be replaced with PT timber steps. George Arthur will provide design, bill-of-materials, and construction.

George Arthur
5/16/2011