

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Draft Copy

Minutes – November 19, 2010

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10 DEC -8 AM 11:06

Present: Members: Ginny Gingras George Arthur, Ann Letendre

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 July 23rd meeting were approved as corrected. Motion by Ginny, second by George.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

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

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

- Dart Hill South
- Dart Hill North
- Walgreen Corner
- Saxony Mill Park
- Paper Mill Park
- Tankerhoosen Dam Park
- Other Parking Areas

New Parks and Trails – Status

- A. Vernon Marsh** – see below. **Franklin St** –
- B. Lyman to Pleasant St Pleasant St to Courthouse One** – see Arthur report
- C. Downtown Rockville Trail** – See Arthur report; George has cleared trail area, constructed steps and benches – which now have a nice view of the waterfalls. Great progress, area looks great.
- D. Grant Status**
 - A. Vernon Marsh** – Jeff Carlson has completed kiosk construction. He is asking what items we want to put on the kiosk. Ann will contact Don B. about maps. Ann will review costs, remaining funds, and get back to HRLP Committee.
 - B. Downtown Rockville Trail** – Signs are drafted and sent to sign company for reproduction.
- E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education** – no actions

3. New Business

Discussion – Ellington Marsh and Ellington trails

Bruce reported that he met with Town of Ellington. He noted that the Town of Ellington is doing more activity with their section of the Hockanum River. There are now trails around the YMCA. HRLP discussion focused on connections to Ellington trail systems. The one at Franklin Street in Vernon is in place, but one has to walk along Windsorville Rd to connect. Using the old rail line through the marsh would be an ideal connection, and also a very interesting marsh walk. A walking bridge would be needed to go over the river. It would need to be steel. George and Bruce will check into cost. This would be a good candidate for a future grant. We need to contact Family Stations that own the tower in the marsh.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am, motion by Arthur, second by Gingras.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson

HRLP 11/19/2010 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT

(See Agenda for item designations)

2Ab P&R trail activity:

- Sidehilling was done at Naek Rd to allow easier hiking. Fallen tree removed from bridge.
- Helped with path for stonedust on Chapman property at Hockanum Blvd
- Roundup spraying was done where necessary in October. HRLP trail is in good shape for the winter.

2B Hockanum Parks & Parking Areas

- Dart Hill South – Engineering has marked boundary so that ownership of undesirable trees on border can be determined.
- Walgreen Corner – More trimming is still needed along fence line.
- Paper Mill Park - Bittersweet and sumac were cut and Roundup treated in October along the fence line.
- Tankerhoosen Dam – Timber seating bench has not been constructed.
- Paul's Pizza – No Parking sign has been installed at entrance road.
- W. Main Park – Trees were removed by playground and new fence with two gates was installed. Manchester EMS staff helped install two timber seating benches (one has a great view of the falls). They also helped install timber steps at both ends of the Park.

2C New Parks and trails

- Vernon Marsh – Kiosk was designed and installed. Display items? Kayak/canoe platform has not been built.
- Franklin St – Vernon trail is in good shape and the Ellington field trail has been cleared.
- New item – Peter Olsen suggested a change in the HRLP trail depicted on the GIS map at Shenipsit Lake. There is an existing trail on CWC land that has great views of the Lake and connects to the blue-blazed Shenipsit Trail. It starts on Rt 74 near Roosevelt Mill and ends at the Shenipsit Trail on the abandoned trolley line at Rt 74 in Tolland.

2E River Protection

- Two springtime hikes for the public along the river will be includedA for 2011.
- Should there be an event for the river on Earth Day?

Conservation Commission Aquatic Invasive Action

- A list of all ponds and any significant vernal pools was prepared for each of the Vernon Tankerhoosen and Hockanum watersheds. The sources for the data were Vernon GIS files. There are 19 listed for Tankerhoosen and 23 for the Hockanum in addition to the 10 major water bodies that were surveyed during the water chestnut survey. An effort will be made delete any that are not of consequence.

3A RDA Collaboration on Mill Pond Park

- At a joint meeting of RDA and HRLP on 11/13/2010 there was discussion of plans, history, and grants. After the meeting, a field inspection of the site was conducted. Discussions included colored lighting of both falls, tree/vegetation removal and potential reconstruction of a catwalk.

Respectfully submitted,

George Arthur

NOT ORIGINAL SIGNATURE

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Bellingham report for July 23 to Nov 19, 2010

Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

We may get trail corrections to offset flooding and the stone dust down that was purchased with the VGV Grant from Pratt Whitney this year which is the core of the projected Walking Trail at Dart Hill South. All depends on Public Works availability after leaf collection. George and Bruce have been intimate participants in the process and can give specifics rather than me writing a long scenario.

Replantings on Rail Trail

Five of the eight replantings on the Rail Trail are completely done and a sixth is ready for replanting next spring. The two remaining sites have not been started and will be done in the spring only if we can get two VGVs to adopt them as we have for the other six. Three of us will be going over the five completed ones on Monday to clean them up for the winter.

Other than that the VGV are pretty much put to bed after our Oct 16 End-of-Year Picnic at Camp Newhoca.