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Town of Vernon  
**Hockanum River Linear Park Committee**

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**Minutes – November 18, 2011**

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**VERNON TOWN CLERK**

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

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 September 23, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion by King, second by Arthur.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Hockanum River Trail Reports**

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details. Bruce remarked that the new trail work done by Vernon Greenway Volunteers from DH Park to Hock. Blvd was a great job.

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

Joe and George noted much storm cleanup work on the trails needed to be done, at least 200 to 300 person hours of work. There are 30 miles of trails in Vernon.

**C. Current Projects - Status**

- a. Vernon Marsh Grant – ( Ref. Task List prepared by G. Arthur, 5-16-11).  
Task 1 – Kiosk, completed except postings. Ann will talk to Don Bellingham about his maps.  
Task 2 – Trail sign 40 ft south of kiosk (completed?)  
Task 3 – Task 4: Kayak, canoe launch – Need Inland Wetlands permit; George will pursue; shoot for Jan-Feb IWC application dates.  
Task 5 – Two vistas, 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.
- b. Collaboration with RDA – Hockanum Falls Lighting Project  
Ann attends RDA meetings and reported that new fencing has been installed at Daniels Mill, owned by Sol Kantor. Sol Kantor will install lighting for the falls, and a new sign will be installed recognizing the project.

**D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications**

- a. Rec. Trails Grant - Lyman to Pleasant St to Courthouse One; submitted Sept 2011.  
No further word on the grant, but Laurie Giannotti expects it to be approved. Key action is to get Giulietti family rights for trail on west side; George will look up MPB number for a letter to be sent, registered mail.  
Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement – Bruce says will cost \$75,000. He has no money in the budget for that, we will need grant sources.
- b. Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement: Bruce says it will cost \$75,000. He has no funding the the 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.

### 3. New Business

- a. Storm Alfred damage – discussed above.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am, motion by George, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson

### ARTHUR REPORT (P&R) SEP 23-NOV 18

#### Walking Trail at DHS

Excavator was used to make connection for walking trail. Chain saw support was used to widen and clear as needed.

#### Storm Alfred trail damage:

Rail Trail was cleared from Manchester to Church St with 28 hrs by Joe and Geo. P&R cleared from Church St to Bolton with many hours of chain saw and trucking.

Geo cleared Baker Rd with 4 hrs of chain saw work.

Joe and Geo worked 26 hrs. with chain saw at Henry park.

Matt (DEEP part time worker at Belding WMA) cleared most of trails in Belding with chain saw. Geo cleared most of the remainder of Shenipsit Trail with 15 hrs. of chain saw work.

P&R maintainers have been clearing roads, parks and trails since the storm. Henry park has become a staging area for brush from Vernon residences.

### VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

September 23, 2011 to November 18, 2011

#### Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

Five Weed Whacker Group work parties widened the Walking Trail in the wooded area near the playground to make it more user friendly.

#### Snow Storm Immediate Follow-up

Trail Managers for DHS, VCMS and Walker's Reservoir cleaned up debris as best they could.

#### Snow Storm Follow-up with Pedal Power

Approximately 40 Pedal Power and Vernon Greenways Volunteers with bow saws and loppers combined to clear the 1 ¼ mile distance from Regan Road to Route 30. Left for Parks and Rec was chain saw activity.

#### Snow Storm Scheduled Work Parties

Work party scheduled for VGVs for this Saturday at VCMS.

Snow Storm Winter Follow-up

Request sent through Rockville Community Alliance for additional town volunteers to help with the trails. Will do Saturday mornings (some weekdays if personnel available) through the winter.

VCMS Blazes

Yellow Blazes were refreshed by Trail Manager on the VCMS Trail.

Beetle Mania

Don Bellingham and Rose Hiskes attended a full day session on the Emerald Ash Borer in New York State just over the Ct border. Morning session was classroom and afternoon was on-site at a few infestations. Program tailored to our group was designed and will be implemented in 2011 that will tour the entire Rails-to-Trails each year checking for an infestation of either Emerald Ash Borer or Asian Longhorn Beetle.