

HRLP 7/22/11 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT – 2Bb
(See Agenda for item designations)

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2Aa Current grant status

- Kiosk – no change
- Trail sign – no change
- Kayak dock – George is working on IWC application
- Trail bridge - George is working on IWC application
- Two vistas and benches – complete
- Stairway - complete

2Ab Connection to Ellington via bridge on RR line

- Formal permission for the trail needs to be obtained from the Town of Ellington. The river property is owned by the Town of Vernon
- The bridge plans need to be presented to Vernon IWC.
- It is doubtful that the use of telephone poles would be acceptable for a bridge over the Hockanum River.
- The funding for a steel bridge of this span will have to be obtained from grants.

2Bb P&R trail activity:

- All bridges and boardwalks are serviceable. The southern ramp on the Valley Falls bridge needs minor adjustment.
- All litter was picked up before the mowing season started.
- All trails are in good shape.

2C Hockanum Parks & Parking Areas

- Dart Hill South – No change.
- Dart Hill North – No change
- Walgreen Corner – Trimming was done along fence line.
- Saxony Mill – Trail to Sycamores was cleared and locust re-growth was cut.
- Paper Mill Park - Minor re-growth on fence needs attention.
- Paul's Pizza – Litter from UTAV Indian Restaurant and brush dumping by Briar Knoll Condos- No change

2D New Parks and trails

- Vernon Marsh – See 2Aa above
- Franklin St – No change
- Lyman to Pleasant St. – No change
- Pleasant St. to Courthouse One. No change

2F River Protection

- 2011 walks were completed. The Trails Day hike at the Talcott Ravine was a complete success with 47 attendees. CT was the national leader again. The Valley Falls hike had 5 attendees. Attendance at all other events was either zero or dismal. Need better publicity.
- We are helping Jane Seymour with the Valley Falls Camp educational walks.

Respectfully submitted,
George Arthur

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

May 27, 2011 to July 22, 2011

Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

Still waiting for town equipment to become available to lay the stone dust. Bruce and I did a walk thru with Public Works during this period and they indicated it should be done some time this summer. The projected June 18, 2011 dedication date, obviously, was cancelled.

Replantings on the Rail Trail

Four separate work parties were called to refresh the six Rail Trail Plantings and apply mulch. Tracy continues to monitor and upgrade where necessary. The six sites do have VGV Adopter's who have agreed to water, weed, etc. during the growing season.

Tunnel Road Parking Area

Tunnel Road project is well on the way to completion. Three separate work parties accomplished weeding of area, application of 8 yards of mulch and 4 yards of compost, identification of formal planting area and the start of the planting process. Parks and Rec moved a large rock to the middle of the planting area which will hold a bronze plaque with the history of the Tunnel. Wording for plaque has been approved and the pricing of the plaque is in the works. Trash can, recycle bin and dog litter bag dispenser/receptacle were also installed. Karin James and Gerri Phelps have agreed to maintain the area.

Weed Whacking Crew

Six VGVs have agreed to become part of a Weed Whacking Crew. So far we have had nine sessions with the emphasis on Dart Hill North and South Trails for a total of 30 hours. The primary focus was to emphasize those areas that are the most impassible so the trails would be open for the July 4 holidays. Work parties will continue during the summer.

New Trail Managers

Getting Trail Managers for Walker's Reservoir and the VCMS Trails have always been my biggest problem when it comes to Trail Managers. Eric Fisher has taken over Walker's Reservoir and has spent a great deal of time weed whacking the trail, picking up trash, emptying trash barrels, putting the trail map dispenser front and center so people would know there is a trail. Rob Grasis and his wife Carol have just this week agreed to take over VCMS. These are two first class people and I can guarantee that VCMS trails will be in peak condition in the near future.

Braille Trail Working Party – July 20, 2011

A large number of weeds were removed from the top of the Braille Trail by nine VGVs. Unfortunately, several good plants were also removed from the garden area that we failed to identify. We will make restitution to the Friends of Valley Falls.