

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – November 20, 2015**

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Present: Members: Ginny Gingras, Joe King, George Arthur
Staff: Bruce Dinnie, Director P&R; Rich Durkee P&R; Dave Smith, Town Engineer

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Acting Chairman George Arthur, following the Friends HRLP meeting. (Chairman Letendre absent due to illness).

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of September deferred to next meeting.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas (see Arthur and Bellingham Reports, attached)

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – some areas eroded, needs work.
- b. Dart Hill North to WPCA OK
- c. Walgreen Corner OK
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park OK
- f. West Main St OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) OK

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C. Current Projects – Status

a. Friends HRLP Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk:

Windsorville Rd Suspension Bridge: Dave noted that a design program for this type of suspension bridge planned for the site has been used successfully in Africa and other places and would suffice for Vernon. The material requirement would have to be determined, such as stainless steel "stringer" cables, decking, deck support cables, railing system, etc. and then be purchased. Construction labor could be partially done by volunteers, but some would have to be contracted such as for concrete supports, and would require use of proper equipment. Dave noted that the Pleasantview boardwalk will also need to have specifications, material purchases and a combination of volunteer and contract labor. It may be constructed step by step, i.e., position and drive the first two support pilings, place stringers, decking, railings and then proceed similarly for next sections for the 200+ foot length.

Pleasantview Boardwalk - Trail clearing, parking lot, wetland delineation.

George reported the trail is cleared. Bruce supplied copies of a proposed parking lot revision prepared by Ralph Zahner and Dave explained the advantages of the change. It is a smaller curb cut and easier parking. The north end of the lot will be very close to the start of the boardwalk. Some additional trees will have to be cut. The attendees agreed that the revision would be better and should be incorporated in the plan. Dave noted that the wetland delineation would be determined and the project would be presented to the Wetland Commission. He did not anticipate any problem in that regard.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications -

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – Area has been cleared by Town

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E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education - No activity

F. Blueways Trail – No Activity.

3. New Business –

- a. Ed Dresner Memorial – Ginny will re-arrange a new time
- b. Lyman Farm Development application. George and Ann have met with developers of the site to discuss incorporation of the Hockanum River Trail into the development. See Arthur Report attached.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am, motion by Ginny, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
George Arthur, Acting Chairperson

ARTHUR HRLP REPORT – SEP 25 TO NOV 20 2015

A. Pleasantview. Several meetings and a walk were held with Bill Griffin regarding the pending development of the former Lyman East property 03-0004-00009. Agreement was reached regarding improvement and easement for the Lyman bridge river-crossing, easements to HRLP for an access trail and the main river trail and the access trail will be stone dust. I had cleared the walking paths for inspection purposes.

I propose the use of existing "scrap" metal bleacher seats to construct an on on-grade crossing of the one small stream that feeds into the river. Four or five seats could be bolted side by side, placed on the stream bed (usually dry) and secured in place with channel iron driven into the stream bed. A wooden raised bridge crossing the stream from bank to bank is not necessary and would require purchase of material.

B. I co-led a hike for Northern CT Land Trust with Karl Hasel on the Andrew Kenneth Reserve. I had previously cleared and re-blazed the four trails we used.

C. I am reviewing the maps and text for my twelve miles of the Shenipsit Trail. The 20th Edition of the Connecticut Walkbook is being readied for printing. The maps are world class and in color. It will be published as a single volume again this year. It was published as two volumes for the first time in the 19th edition. Local trails are also depicted on the maps.

D. All Vernon trails and trail structures are in good shape going into winter. One exception is portions of the HRLP stone dust trail on the Mansions property require re-doing. The filter fabric is even visible on the southern end.

E. The Ecker Hill Disc Golf course now has 18 tees and "holes". Tournaments have been held. There are plans to rearrange a few holes in the future.

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

Sep 25, 2015 to Nov 20, 2015

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass

At the Oct 10 Mural Committee Meeting the Lead Artist indicated there is 10 to 14 hours more art work to be done. The VGVs will need to clear coat that to complete the art work. It was decided the project would be finished (hopefully) and the dedication take place in 2016. Subsequent conversations with Bruce Dinnie resulted in the dedication date set for Saturday, June 4th (Trails Day) and would be a combined event with Parks and Rec. The dedication plaque wording has been finalized and the plaque will be ordered three weeks prior to the event. There has been no tagging.

Year-End Picnic at Camp Newhoca

On October 21 Parks and Rec again sponsored a year end picnic for the Vernon Greenways Volunteers. It was catered by Mary Carlson. The mayor was invited and did attend. We did a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the first section of the Rail Trail (Tunnel Road to Bolton Town Line) by inviting members of the 242nd Engineering Battalion to attend and asking the commander who is still in the area to discuss the project. I did a summary of 2015 featuring the Trail Maintenance Teams' work particularly on that section that was done by the 242nd and how badly it was in need of new stone dust. I, also, spent a considerable amount of time discussing the mural.