Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

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Minutes – June 2 , 2016

Present: Members: Ginny Gingras, Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre
Staff: Dave Smith, Town Engineer

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Ann Letendre, following the Friends HRLP meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 24, 2016 regular meeting; motion by Joe, second by George, approved unanimously.

2. Old Business

A. **Hockanum River Trail Reports**

B. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details; highlights are (1) that the dedication of the mural is planned for June 4th, from 11 am to 1pm and will include several activities; and (2) George spent 38 man-hours cutting trees and brush on the trail on the west side of the river and made it into a dirt road at the Windsorville Rd site for the for the suspended bridge construction. This will enable construction equipment access to that side of the river.

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

a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – Trail at Hockanum Mansions is still in need of repair, several areas of erosion and the fabric filter is exposed, can be dangerous.
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

D. **Current Projects – Status**

Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

Windsorville Rd Suspended Bridge

Dave Smith said that he had no responses to the RFQ from lumber companies. He will contact the companies. Dave is working on the site plan. The bridge will be a 110 foot span. The construction schedule might slip. Wetlands permit will be needed from the IWC, as well as a flood management certification from the State. Dave will contact John Ianni to define the wetlands limits for an IWC permit application.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed: no new action

Pleasantview Boardwalk

Wood guard rail fencing still needs to be ordered for the parking area. George brought samples of the re-purposed metal bleacher seats to be used for the four short ground-level boardwalks. The group felt this is an excellent approach and we should move forward with it. Ann will contact Laurie Spielman for a re-quote of the raised boardwalk.

E. **Potential Projects and New Grant Applications**
   a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
   b. 19 Grove Street – Ann noted again that the HRLP Master Plan shows a trail going through that site, and that it will make a great urban park area; and that a landscape designer should be hired to plan the project, which we could probably do under a grant.

F. **River Protection: Actions, Public Education** - George reported that a hike is planned for Trails Day, June 4th at the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area.

G. **Blueways Trail** – Jerry Kinsman expects to restart work this summer.

3. New Business –

a. Ed Dresner Memorial – Ginny will re-arrange a new time

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by Ginny, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT
Mar 25, 2016 to Jun 2, 2016

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass

Mural Committee meetings held April 14 at Youth Services Offices and May 9 On-Site. Dedication ceremony is a joint Mural Committee and Parks and Rec venture. Duties for the dedication were allocated to the five team members and the Parks and Rec Representative. Dedication is Saturday June 4th from 11 AM to 1 PM (rain date June 5). Ceremonies will be at noon. There will be Art displays by students and local artists, as well as, a live art presentation. A "Can You Find This" white board will task the attendees. The mayor and a Pratt & Whitney Senior Exec will attend. Dedication T-Shirts designed by the Lead Artist and purchased by Parks & Rec will be given out. Dessert and beverages will be served.

Vernon Greenways Volunteers Management Team

Meetings were held April 19 and May 25. I am currently deciding how to get the info on the organization to the members, making all members able to do my weekly tour of the main trail heads and solving no pickup truck problem.

1) Decided to do a Google Account with all pertinent data, e.g. List of VGVs and how to contact them, where to purchase dog litter bags, etc. Documents will be able to be accessed and changed by all four members (Currently 10 documents).

2) I do a two hour tour of the main trail heads weekly this time of year. Created a write up and put in a cardboard box in my garage that has all pertinent items needed to accomplish, e.g. trail maps, dog litter bags, etc. Each of the three has done one tour with me. They can do by themselves by retrieving the box.

3) Trying to solve the problems that are created because I don't have access to a pick up truck. We can rent from Home Depot if necessary.

Spring Kickoff Meeting

The official start to the season is the Spring Kickoff Meeting. It was held at the Teen Center on April 28. I lead off by talking about what we did and what is coming up for 2016. Jerry Kinsman did the same for the Blue Ways Volunteers. Jon Roe and Ann Letendre were the featured speakers and presented "Meeting House Hill - A piece of our past is preserved for the future". Refreshments were served. Attendance was 49.

Planting Prep & Mulch
Annual Prep of our eight plants has started. Warren Avenue was prepped and mulched. Phoenix and Washington Streets were prepped.

Annual Meeting with Public Works
On May 25th my annual meeting with the Public Works Director took place. It was, also, attended by Steve Krajewski for Parks and Rec, Sean ? who chooses work assignments and Bruce Luddy from the VGV Management Team. Since all except Bob Kleinhans were new I did a summary of our organization. I then indicated what we planned to do in 2016 and asked if they would resurface the Rail Trail from West Street to Vernon Ave and the power lines to the entrance to the school. I requested they remove the pile of dirt at the end of the trail at Vernon Avenue and continue the trail directly on through to the street.

ARTHUR REPORT – MAR 24 to JUN 2, 2016

1. I re-leveled 13 Tee boxes for the spring golf tournament at the Ecker Hill Disc Golf Course.

2. I cut trees and brush on the HRLP rail line trail in Ellington and made it into a dirt road up to the location for the suspended bridge. This was a big job that required 38 man-hours to go 1400 ft.

3. I weed-whacked the two sections of the Shenipsit Trail that will be hiked on Trails Day Saturday June 4. One will be led by CT Water Co along Shenipsit Lake. The second will be led by me around the Tankerhoosen WMA.

4. I weed-whacked the HRLP Trail in the area that will need the on grade boardwalks and the 16 ft wooden bridge over the connecting stream. It had overgrown.

5. I designed HRLP on-grade boardwalks to use the surplus channel steel bleacher seats. They will be 4 channels wide (37 inches). The only question will involve whether to repaint the channels and if so, will they need to be cleaned and what paint should be used. I have one 8 ft section set up in my back yard.