

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

Minutes – July 22 , 2016

RECEIVED BY EMAIL

**RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK**

16 NOV 18 AM 8:38

Present: Members: Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre
Staff: Dave Smith, Town Engineer; Steve Krajewski, P&R Interim Director

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

(The Friends meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Ann Letendre; HRLP meeting called to order at 10:30 am, following the Friends HRLP meeting.)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June 2, 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) well-attended dedication of the mural project June 4th, organized by Don Bellingham and the Vernon Greenway Volunteers; (2) Don has some enthusiastic new volunteers this year; (3) the Trails Day hike at the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area, led by George Arthur, had 12 people in attendance; it was also held June 4th. George notes that the drain between Walkers Reservoirs east and west needs to be opened up.

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, trail is overgrown, George will not clear for now;
need to determine if trail is used
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park - Needs work
- f. West Main St - OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
- h. Rails to Trails – the Rockville spur needs work; sides need to be weedwhacked; it should be 8 to 9 feet wide, but it's only about 6 feet wide. Need equipment to get in to widen it.

D. Current Projects – Status

Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

Windsorville Rd Suspended Bridge

Dave Smith said the inland wetlands permit application has been submitted, and is expected to be reviewed by the Inland Wetlands Commission at their August 23rd meeting. Site drawings have been prepared. Dave recommends removing about 3 feet of material from the hill on the south side of the river. He recommends that we hire a local contractor to do the site work on a per diem basis. Materials requirements were priced by vendors for lumber, cable, and deck surfacing. We need to get flood management certification from the state.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed: no new action

Pleasantview Boardwalk

Wood guard rail fencing still needs to be ordered for the parking area, but will be done after the boardwalk is constructed. George plans to construct the ground-level boardwalk and the

short bridge in August. Ann will contact Laurie Spielman for a re-quote of the raised boardwalk. Ann will set up tax-free account at Kelly Fradet for lumber.

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 - No action.

G. Blueways Trail – Jerry Kinsman and volunteers cleared the logs and debris out of the river from Rt 74 Windsorville Rd to Dart Hill Road on May 20th. The kayak/canoe trail is now clear for that section of the river.

3. New Business –

- a. None

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

Jun 2, 2016 to Jul 22, 2016

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass - Dedication

On Saturday June 4th (Trails Day) the dedication of the mural at the Route 84 underpass of the Rockville Extension of the Rail Trail took place. Before the dedication Middle School Epoch Art Students and one of the eight contributing local artists presented art displays.

Speakers at the dedication included: Don Bellingham, Project Director/Vernon Greenways Volunteers Lead; Mayor Daniel Champaign; Dave Smith, Pratt & Whitney Executive; Sherri Nevins, Vernon Middle School Art Teacher/Epoch Art Program founder, and Jeff Slobodien, Lead Artist.

This was the culmination of one and 1/2 years of planning by the Mural Committee (Don Bellingham; Sherri Nevins; Jeff Slobodien; Sandra Justin, The Vernon Arts Commission, and Michelle Hill, Vernon Youth Services) and one year of execution by the artists. The project was funded by a \$5,000 grant from Pratt & Whitney.

Beverages and dessert items were served post dedication. The ceremony was attended by approximately 50 people. This area had been abused by obscene and objectionable material graffiti for years and the dedication plaque says it best "Art Transforms an Abused Space".

Planting Prep & Mulch

Annual preparation of seven of the eight plantings done and, where appropriate, mulched.

Annual Site Cleanup

Annual cleanup of Informational overlook at Sewage Treatment Plant and hillside of the Braille Trail completed.

Informational Signs on "Pick up After your Pets" posted

Annual "Pick up After Your Pets" informational signs posted for one week at Church St and Dart Hill South.

Weed Whacking Team – Hiking Trails

Eight outings by the Weed Whacking Team at Dart Hill North, Dart Hill South and VCMS.

Trail Maintenance Team – Erosion Control

Five outings by the Trail Maintenance Team on the Church St to Manchester Town Line and Rockville Extension of the Rail Trail.

Enthusiastic New Members

Enthusiastic new members who want to get involved are helping considerably. One took over as a Trail Monitor for the Stone Dust Trail at Dart Hill South (never had one here before) while a second has joined the Trail Maintenance and Weed Whacking Teams, as well as, asking to take over as Trail Monitor for Dart Hill North.

ARTHUR REPORT – Jun 2 to July 22, 2016

1. I led Trails Day hike around the Tankerhoosen WMA including scenic views of Tankerhoosen River, ruins of 2 cabins and the two Walker Reservoirs. Joe King was the hike sweep and 12 people attended.
2. I weed-whacked the HRLP orange blazed river trails from Naek Rd to Dart Hill Rd and the section from Paul's Pizza to the river to clear growth since last fall – 11 hrs.
3. I prepared trails in Valley Falls and Newhoca Parks prior to summer camp opening – 11 hrs.
4. I cleared and widened the HRLP trail on the east bank from the Mansion bridge to the swamp at Pleasantview – 21 hrs.
5. I also did trail maintenance on the Shenipsit Trail, the blue/red trail at Valley Falls and cut trees on the blue/orange HRLP trail at Vernon Gardens.
6. Picked up litter on ballfields and Valley Falls fields