

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

DRAFT Minutes – January 22, 2016

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

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 22, August 14, September 25 and November 20, 2015 were approved; motion by Joe, second by George, approved unanimously.

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

George noted that the trail at Hockanum Mansions has eroded, the fabric filter is exposed, can be dangerous. Bruce reported that about two miles of Rail Trail were rebuilt, but there is still about 8 miles of trails remaining that need to be resurfaced for the Rail Trail and Hockanum trails. Total cost would be about \$5,000 per mile, or \$40,000 for materials.

C. Current Projects – Status

a. Friends HRLP Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

Windsorville Rd Trail Bridge: The Friends will begin to look at construction detail and make some design decisions. Dave will set up a meeting first week February at 55 West Main St to review options and materials needed, and to outline a construction plan and schedule. Tentative construction time period will be late July – early August this year. A pool of volunteers will need to be obtained; Dave has friends interested in working on it, and Don Bellingham expects that a group of Vernon Greenway Volunteers will be interested in assisting. Ann reminded participants to track volunteer hours, which can be applied to grant matching requirements.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed: George provided the list of landowners from whom we need to obtain trail easements to complete the trail from Pleasantview to the Manchester line. There are 12 parcels, including the Town of Vernon; some owners own more than one parcel, so there are 7 separate individuals or companies that need to be approached for easements.

Pleasantview Boardwalk – Trail clearing, parking lot, wetland delineation. Dave provided a drawing of the site, showing location of parking lot and wetlands delineation by

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John Ianni, soil scientist. Application is scheduled to go to the Inland Wetlands Commission Jan 26th for approval for tree removal and parking lot construction. Boardwalk construction, bids to be discussed at next meeting.

b. Integration of HRLP Master Plan trails into the Lyman Farm proposed development

George and Ann updated the Committee about discussion and meetings with Bill Griffin of Talbot Partners, the development company; and Patrick O'Leary, civil engineer from VHB. The purpose of the meetings were to discuss incorporation of the HRLP trails into the development plans, per the Hockanum River Linear Park Master Plan. Ann showed a copy of the site plan showing details for the trails and conservation easement location. The development plan is for a mixed use - apartments, with retail fronting on Rt 83. Talbot will put a conservation easement on the land abutting the river and encompassing the wetlands, about 10 acres in total. This is about the acreage that is listed on the Vernon Open Space Plan for the site. The development project provides for parking for the trails (9 spaces); trail access and construction for the section of the trail from the Lyman bridge to the abutting Town owned parcel. Stormwater runoff plans direct all runoff back into the ground, no water directly enters the river. The plan meets goals of the HRLP Master Plan for the site, as well as the Vernon Open Space Plan, and clean water goals of not directing stormwater runoff directly into the river. The Committee was pleased with the design and felt it respected the environmental sensitivity of the river riparian area and the wetlands on the site.

In light of the positives of the site plan cited above, a motion was made for the HRLP Committee to support the development proposal and draft a statement to submit at the public hearing scheduled for February 18th. Motion by Joe, second by George, unanimous vote. Ann will draft a statement and send it to the Committee for approval.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – Dave and Bruce noted that the cleared area will be seeded and temporary road will be put in. Ann again noted the great potential the site offers for a nice waterfront park, and that a good landscape designer should be hired. Ann thinks the project is a good potential for Rec. Trails grant application. Dave also noted that McDermott Mill, abutting that site, will be torn down. The HRLP Master Plan shows a trail going through that site also.

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

F. Blueways Trail – No Activity. Bruce said 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
Nov 21, 2015 to Jan 22, 2016**

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass

First Meeting held on Tuesday Jan 19, 2016 for organizing June 4 dedication ceremonies which will be a combined event with the Mural Committee and Parks and Rec. Meeting composed of Rich Durkee from Parks

and Rec and Michelle Hill and me from the Mural Committee. We essentially just proposed options for the event. One tagging event took place and was corrected by a VGV work party during this time period.

BESB Outing for 2016

The outing for middle school aged kids from the Board of Education School for the Blind from all over Ct will return for 2016 at Valley Falls Park. There has been an inquiry from the woman who is in charge of the event for K-3rd about possibly joining with her group. We normally get about 20 kids and I suggested that 30 or more would be the limit we would be able to handle without watering down the event. Since we do the event every other year for the middle school kids I suggested she look at coming in the years the middle school kids are not coming and we could tailor the event for the younger kids. There is no scheduled date yet but it has historically happened in May as a year-end event. I suggested they stay away from the end of May because of our June 4 Mural Dedication.

Spring Kickoff Meeting

Annual start to our season, the Spring Kickoff Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28th at the Teen Center at 7:00 PM. I will discuss what happened in 2015 and where we are going in 2016. Featured speaker is Jon Roe. His subject is Meeting House Hill and his presentation is tentatively named "Meetinghouse Hill: A Piece of Our Past is Preserved for the Future."

Annual Reup for Volunteers and Trail Managers

Sent out annual email reup notice asking Volunteers/Trail Managers to reconfirm they wish to remain part of the organization/Trail Managers. Of the 63 Volunteers I heard back from 33. Of the 13 Trail Managers I heard back from 10 that they wish to continue. I will send a follow up to those who have not responded one week before February 1. If I don't hear from them by February 1, I will remove names from the VGV list.

**George Arthur Report
November 20, 2015 to January 22, 2016
(no trail work this period)**