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Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Minutes – June 2, 2017

Present: Members: Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre

Staff: Marty Sitler, Dave Smith

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

(HRLP meeting called to order at 10:15 am, following the Friends HRLP meeting at 9:30 am.)

1. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of April 7 and June 2, 2017 were approved, motion by Joe, second by George.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports
Refer to Arthur report and Vernon Greenway Volunteers report (attached) for details.
There continues to be a major erosion problem on the trail at Hockanum Mansions. The trail needs to be redone. George will send Marty background information on the trail.
Regarding removal of structures on closed trails, it was decided to remove those not needed. George, Joe and Marty will decide how and when.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – OK
b. Dart Hill North to WPCA - OK
c. Walgreen Corner OK, someone is taking care of the area
d. Saxony Mill Park OK.
e. Paper Mill Corner Park – OK
f. West Main St - OK, George weedwhacked and cleaned area
g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
h. Rails to Trails – Rockville Spur - OK

C. Current Projects – Status

Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

1. Bridge – Update
   a. Schedule – First work parties held, very successful; brush removed, cement bases poured, project on schedule
   b. Upcoming tasks – Tree Warden J. Shaumbach has been contacted regarding tree removal at the site; order and delivery of Allan blocks for next work parties
   d. Community Voice Channel may do a taping of the actual construction

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Update
   a. ORC Company has been contracted to do the boardwalk; work will start in Sept.

3. Property Easements – Waiting to hear from DOT; Ann will follow up with trailer park owner, Circle Associates, and Tri-City.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
b. 19 Grove Street – Area may be taken over by a non-profit to develop the site

E. **River Protection: Actions, Public Education**

F. **Blueways Trail** – No new action – Jerry Kinsman has not done any further work, it was decided to remove from agenda for the time being.

3. New Business –

a. 19 Grove St – development of the area may be taken over by a non-profit.
b. Discussion – future of the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee. Ann noted that completion of the Windsorville Rd bridge and the Pleasantview Boardwalk will complete a major portion of the Master Plan. Since completion of the Master Plan is the main purpose of the Committee, the rationale for continuation of the Committee needs to be determined. Maintenance of the trails can continue under the non-profit Friends of HRLP, as it currently does. Evaluation of remaining work for the Master Plan will be done at future meetings, and whether or not it makes sense for the HRLP Committee to continue to exist.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

ARTHUR REPORT – JUNE 2, 2017 to July 28, 2017

1. My hours to report for this period for HRLP trail are 115.

2. Joe and I cleared the river trail from Wendy's to Tri City along the river bank and it was dry. We re-inspected Tri City and determined that the stream crossing will require more than an 8 ft bridge to go on to Giulietti properties. I have not designed the final structure yet but estimate a cost of $550. We are clearing the trail on Giuletti and Tri City properties to Kelly Rd and expect to have it completed in a week. We will need several more 8 ft boardwalks and possibly some steps in these sections – perhaps $500. We need permission to go on Circle Assoc and Tri City properties in order to complete the trail to Kelly Rd.

3. I weed-whacked the Franklin St trail. The Ellington section needed major clearing.

4. In preparation for the Rt 74 suspension bridge I cleared an entrance 'road' into the Vernon HRLP mound and a large area for brush, clipped and stacked brush and cut trees on top of mound. I then helped with the July 8 work party. In preparation for the bridge on the Ellington side, Joe and I cut trees to widened the 1300 ft entrance road, increased the trail width by 10 more feet for 50 feet from river and flagged a path from parking to work site. We then helped with the July 22 work party. Joe and I helped Dave make the concrete foundation for the Ellington side cable tower on July 26.

5. Ellington has become very active on the HRLP. Trails are now mapped, trail workers are now active, an HRLP committee has been formed, Town employees are actively supporting actions.

6. DEEP has requested CFPA to re-locate a portion of the Shenipsit Trail from it's current path in the woods to be on an existing woods road. The reason is to cause less disturbance to wildlife. It should be done after the scheduled logging work is completed.

7. I still have a question about what we should do with trail structures left on HRLP trails that we have now closed?

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT - June 2, 2017 to July 28, 2017

Maintenance

Tracy Gorecki and I went over the 8 plantings and she listed what replacement plants were needed. Replacement plants will not be installed until September as Tracy is out of town until then. The Trail Maintenance Team has been rained out four or the seven times it was scheduled and, therefore, is still concentrating on the Phoenix St to the Bolton town line section of the Rail Trail. The Weed Whacking Team has cleared the Dart Hill North, Dart Hill South and VCMS hiking trails. Ad hoc projects will likely be affected because of my injury.

CT Census Project

We have had two more counter true-up sessions where we manually monitor the people who pass thru the counter to develop a factor to true-up the count developed by the counter. One more will take place before December. This will be done annually. We have had two Trail User Survey Sessions where we hand out a 5 minute trail user survey for trail users to fill out and return to us. Two more sessions will be conducted in September.

Suspended Bridge Project

Although George Arthur had done some pre-work clearing the Suspended Bridge site the official kickoff was on July 8. It was attended by 16 including 11 VGVs, 1 from the Ellington trail group, 3 engineer friends of Dave Smith and Dave Smith. Trees and brush were cleared from the trolley bed on the Vernon side and hauled to the transfer station. After lunch the 5 remaining moved to the Ellington side of the Hockanum River and cleared brush from the front of the bank. On July 14 George Arthur and Joe King finished clearing on the Ellington side. On July 22 11 including 7 VGVs , 2 from the Ellington trail group, 1 engineer friend of Dave Smith and Dave Smith attended. Dave Smith using an excavator dug a hole for the concrete foundation on the Ellington side of the river. A form for the concrete foundation was built from wood and rebar and placed in the hole. It was positioned and leveled. Wood was removed by the volunteers to insure the concrete truck coming on Wednesday to pour the concrete had enough room to get to the site. George Arthur, Joe King and Dave Smith will be there to assist.

VGV Leadership Meeting – July 17

Because of my injury Joe King, John Horan and Bruce Luddy and I attended a leadership meeting at my house to divide up future leadership duties.