

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

Minutes – September 23 , 2016

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17 JAN 27 AM 8:37

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

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of July 22, 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) Beetlemania project was successfully held Sept 7th, no incidences of ash borer were found; (2) ten workday outings were held during this period by volunteers for trail maintenance; (3) six VGVs assisted George Arthur in building a 16-ft wooden bridge over a stream in the new Pleasantview trail section; (4) a 24-ft at-grade boardwalk using recycled bleacher seats was constructed by George Arthur on the Pleasantview trail section; (5) George provided 15 hours of assistance and advice to both Ellington and Tolland Parks & Recreation departments, at their request, on trail design and use of GPS trail mapping and Mapgeo.

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. The biggest washout is 10 inches deep and 9 yards long, and requires Public Works equipment to repair. Don reports that this condition is dangerous and embarrassing since it's a visible, open area. Calls have been made over several months to Public Works and the Mayor, but no action has resulted. Don will talk to the property manager at Hockanum Mansions to explain the situation, and to see if they can make a call to the Mayor to explain the dangerous situation at the site.
- b. Dart Hill North to WPCA OK
- c. Walgreen Corner OK, someone is taking care of the area
- 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 weed whacking
- f. West Main St - OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
- h. Rails to Trails – the Rockville spur still 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 (from Friends HRLP meeting)

The inland wetlands permit application was approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission at their August 23rd meeting. Permits still needed are (1) PZC special permit to work in a flood hazard area; and (2) DEEP flood management certificate. Construction is delayed until spring. Dave Smith recommends using a product called Allenblock to build the ramping needed at one end of the bridge. The construction methodology is simple and could be done by volunteers.

Some large trees in the area will need to come down, will need to hire a company due to the wires in the area. We will also need to hire a bobcat for small excavation.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed: The Committee will review changing the trail location to the north side of the river by Kelly Road and the I-84 underpass since we are unable to contact the Giulietti family to discuss easement. George will check the site.

Pleasantview Boardwalks

Wood guard rail fencing still needs to be ordered for the parking area, but will be done after the boardwalk is constructed. Work will focus on this area since the suspended bridge is delayed. George constructed a 24-ft at-grade boardwalk using used bleacher seats. Six Vernon Greenway Volunteers assisted George in constructing a 16-ft bridge over a stream in this trail section. Three additional, small at-grade boardwalks are needed, plus a larger 250 ft boardwalk, to complete this section of the trail through the marsh area. The large boardwalk will need to be done by a construction company. A structural assessment of the old concrete Lyman Bridge for trail use needs to be done.

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 – No further action, water in the river is low.

3. New Business –

- a. None

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

Jul 23, 2016 to Sep 23, 2016

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass – Maintenance

Since the June 4 Dedication there have been four graffiti executions. One was on the brick wall on the outside of the south tunnel. One was on the white painted wall on the outside of the north tunnel. We painted over both. The last two weeks there have been small graffiti attempts on the mural. Both were taken out by goof off.

On August 13 four VGVs put down mulch between the brick walls and the trail just outside of the south tunnel to eliminate weed growth.

Weed Whacking Team – Hiking Trails

There were four outings by the Weed Whacking Team at Dart Hill South and VCMS.

Trail Maintenance Team – Erosion Control

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

VGV Pride/Recognition Day

I declared August 13 to be Vernon Greenways Volunteers Pride/Recognition Day and asked the 63 members to wear their VGV T Shirt or baseball cap all day.

Build a Bridge

Six VGVs and Bruce Dinnie assisted George in building a wooden bridge in what is to be the extension of the Orange hiking trail just past the Mansions property.

Beetlemania

The sixth annual search for tree damage to trees adjacent to the Rail Trail caused by the Asian Longhorned Beetle or Emerald Ash Borer was conducted on September 17. Turnout of just nine was disappointing. We covered 1 ½ miles and did not see any signs of infestation. We determined that the poor turnout was because of competition so will move next year to June.

ARTHUR REPORT – July 22 to September 23, 2016

1. I cleared and widened the HRLP trail on the east bank from the Mansion bridge to the parking lot at Pleasantview. It was the first time the area north of the parking was dry enough to clear it. 4 hrs.
2. I built the first HRLP boardwalk that incorporated the used steel bleacher seats. It is 24 ft long and is positioned beside the concrete Mansion bridge. Time and usage will determine the concept suitability. 32 hrs.
3. I met with the developers of the proposed Wendy facility and explained the HRLP trail progress, future plans, and desire to protect the river corridor. Their blueprint is being revised and they will meet with us again. 2 hrs.
4. I built the 16 ft bridge across the stream channel that is 600 ft south of the concrete bridge. The bridge is necessary during high water. The construction would not have been possible without the help from the VGV. My time was 18 hrs.
5. Ellington personnel requested my help with the HRLP and other trails and we had a meeting on 9/7/16. All aspects of trail design, construction, maintaining, usage and mapping were discussed. I agreed to GPS the trails and provide the GIS shapefiles to their mapping contractor. The Mapgeo concept is being applied to Ellington. 13 hrs.
6. Tolland P&R requested my help with their trails and I met with them on 9/8/16. I showed them how to use their GPS and showed them Mapgeo. 2 hrs.