

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

Minutes – November 17, 2017

Present: Members: Don Bellingham, Joe King, George Arthur, Ginny Gingras (arriving late)
Ann Letendre
Staff: Marty Sittler, Dave Smith

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

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 22nd were approved, motion by George, second by Joe.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

Refer to Arthur report and Vernon Greenway Volunteers report (attached) for details.
Dart Hill Trail South – Marty Sittler reported that five eroded trail sections at Hockanum Mansions were repaired with an asphalt surface. Work was done by Tilcon. The trail location was also moved to a lower grade in some areas. Costs were covered by the grant, totaled \$3,403.70. Public Works and P&R labor were used as matching hours for the grant.

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
- 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. Suspended Bridge – Update

- a. Bridge construction was completed, completely done by volunteer time, successfully led by Dave Smith, Town Engineer.
- b. Upcoming tasks – Obtain State DOT permit for crosswalk, Dave Smith will draft a plan and will connect with Chief Kenny. About 5 feet of dirt needs to be removed from the hill in front of the bridge. Ann and Dave will determine if Public Works or the landscaper will do the work.
Ann and Don will discuss production of video. Mike Winkler has volunteered to put it together. A ribbon-cutting and celebration will be planned for spring.

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Update

- a. The Inland Wetlands Commission approved the permit for activity in the wetlands at the September 26th meeting. Ann, Dave and Phil Oswald of ORC, LLC made the presentation. Construction on the boardwalk was initiated. It's difficult work because of all the unusual amount of water in the marsh. Work was also initiated on the viewing and sitting area by Earthworks.

3. Property Easements – No new activity.

5. Costs – Ann reported that project is on-budget, and costs and estimate-to-complete are

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within \$175,000 grant, and matching requirements will be easily met with volunteer hours.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – no new activity

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education

- a. No activity

3. New Business - none

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

**Vernon Greenways Volunteer Report
Sep 23, 2017 to Nov 17, 2017**

Maintenance

The Trail Maintenance Team had two outings on the Rail Trail for a total of 18 volunteer hours. There were three outings to replenish our 8 plantings with fresh plants for a total of 25 hours. Mural maintenance to remove graffiti with the power washer took place on one occasion for a total of 12 volunteer hours.

Suspended Bridge Project

A total of 12 sessions were attended by VGVs for a cumulative of 355 volunteer hours. The suspended bridge is now fully constructed.

**ARTHUR REPORT –
Sept 22, 2017 to Nov 17, 2017**

My hours to report for this period for HRLP trail are 78 hrs

1. I participated in most of the scheduled work parties on the Rt 74 suspended bridge in Sept, Oct and Nov. (74 hrs)
2. I cleared a large tree that was growing on the west bank of the Hockanum River and was blown down across the stone dust trail at the Mansions. It crossed the trail and extended about 20 ft beyond. It had many large branches and tangled with several other trees. I left several brush piles to be picked up. It was near the 24 ft bridge.