

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

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Minutes – September 22, 2017

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VERNON TOWN CLERK

Present: Members: Don Bellingham, Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre 18 JAN 26 AM 8:47

Staff: Marty Sitler
Guest: Jeff Hutton, landscape architect

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 28th 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 – Discussion on the ongoing erosion problem at Hockanum Mansions. Mr Sitler suggested asphalt paving would resolve the issue, also moving location to a lower grade. Since it's Dart Hill trail, Ann said material costs could be covered under 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. Bridge – Update

a. Schedule – Work parties continuing through September. Project is on schedule and is successfully led by Dave Smith.

b. Upcoming tasks – construct towers, string cables across river, cut boardwalk boards, build deck on cables, install side fencing.

c. Record work completed each work session – photo or video

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Update

a. A permit will be needed for the work in the marsh; application has been filed with the Inland Wetlands Commission; the hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017.

3. Property Easements – Waiting to hear from DOT; Ann and George will arrange to meet with S. Gately to discuss trail location near Vernon Circle and properties that need crossing. Ann will follow-up with trailer park owner.

4. Jeff Hutton of Earthworks presented his preliminary concepts for landscape design for both sites. Board members concurred with the proposal. Use of natural materials is incorporated into the design. For the bridge site, stone steps will be installed at the south tower to reach the bridge.
5. Costs – Ann reported that project is on-budget, and costs and estimate-to-complete are 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. Ann noted that the annual 2017 Rapid Bioassessment by Volunteers will be held on October 14th. Tom Ouellette, Open Space Task Force, is leading the event again, and will provide a report.

3. New Business –

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

ARTHUR REPORT – JULY 29, TO SEPT 22, 2017

1. My hours to report for this period for HRLP trail are 38.5.
2. The river trail path is now cleared from Wendy's to Kelly Rd thru Circle Assoc, Giuletti and Tri City properties. Path was mainly, dry even the sections along the river bank. Tri City will require more than an 8 ft bridge to go on to Giuletti properties. I have not designed the final structure yet but estimate a cost of \$550. 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. The bridge on the closed trail section along the river in Dart Hill South Park was removed and the PT lumber was disposed of at the Transfer Station.
4. I participated in 5 VGV work parties for the Rt 74 suspension bridge. I was asked to do an interview for the TV person after the first work party. I suggested that Ann Letendre and other knowledgeable personnel should also be considered for interviews. I also helped coordinate a work day with Distinctive Tree Service to remove trees on the mound on the Vernon side of the river.
5. Lisa Houlihan, Ellington Town Planner was updated on the Rt 74 bridge progress and I offered to meet her at the site if she had time in her schedule. Ellington Town officials are actively supporting the trail.
6. An aerial photo, trail photos and some measured distances were provided to Marty. The data was for the existing eroded stone dust trail on the Mansion property. Consideration to pave is underway.

The following work was done on non-HRLP trails. Hrs are 92

1. The CFPA work party on the Shenipsit B/Y trail in Valley Fall for Rob Butterworth was conducted on Aug 1 and I coordinated it for Rob. The team did a good job with a lot of sidehilling and the result was a much improved steep section. Joe King and I re-blazed the trail by blocking out the old blazes and adding new B/Y blazes.
The work parties to rebuild the steep section of the blue Shenipsit Trail from Valley Falls Park up to the Rail Trail and to relocate the blue Shenipsit Trail after logging in the BWMA property have not been scheduled at this time.
2. The blue Shenipsit Trail section by Shenipsit Lake was prepared for a Trails Day Hike in Tolland. The hike was led by Connecticut Water Co. personnel.
3. Valley Falls Park litter was picked up on a daily basis, trash barrels inside the fence were replaced if necessary, trim mowing was done when required. The trail to the Red Barn and the barn grounds were maintained, especially for Artist Day.

Vernon Greenways Volunteer Report July 29, 2017 to Sep 22, 2017

Maintenance

The Trail Maintenance Team had six outings on the Rail Trail toward Bolton and the Rockville Extension with a total of 52 volunteer hours. Mike Brennan for the Weed Whacking Team had four outings for 12 hours on the Dart Hill North and South hiking trails. Tracy Gorecki and I spent four hours purchasing plants for the Rail Trail gardens. A work party of 4 will start planting them today for a total of 12 hours. Mural maintenance to cover one graffiti attempt, repaint the white entrance wall and remove grass was done by six for a total of 12 hours.

CT Census Project

We had one counter true-up session where we manually monitor the people who pass thru the counter to develop a factor to true-up the count developed by the counter. Two people took 4 hours to complete. This will be done annually. We 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. A total of six participated for a total of 12 hours. Census taking is done for this year.

Suspended Bridge Project

A total of 12 sessions were attended by a cumulative 101 people for 484 volunteer hours. Five yards of cement was poured on the Ellington side to create the anchor for the cables and then buried to provide access for constructing the tower. The tower on the Ellington side was constructed on the cement base that had previously been poured. The cement base on the Vernon side was poured.