

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – January 26, 2018**

Present: Members: Don Bellingham, Joe King, George Arthur, Ginny Gingras,
Ann Letendre
Staff: Marty Sitler, 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 11/17/17 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.

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

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C. Current Projects – Status

A. Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

1. Suspended Bridge – Remaining tasks:

- a. Landscaping: Bids need to be solicited for landscaping and access on the berm to the bridge. George will check the site to see if any further clearing can be done to clear the view of the marsh.
- b. Crosswalk: Obtain State DOT permit for crosswalk, Dave Smith will draft a plan and will connect with Chief Kenny and State DOT. The Town will be constructing an asphalt sidewalk between the WPCF and the traffic light by Stop & Shop on Rt. 74.
- c. Signs: Text for signs needs to be drafted, and pricing for signs needs to be obtained.
- d. Video: Ann drafted an outline for a ½ hour video for Community Voice Channel (CVC). Mike Winkler will put it together and do the editing. The video will be shown at the Vernon Greenways Kickoff Meeting April 24th. It may not be completely edited by that time, depending on time available of participants.
- e. Ribbon-cutting and celebration to be set sometime in spring.

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Update

- a. Boardwalk was completed, all bills have been paid. Jeff Hutton has completed 75% of the landscaping for the area. Signage still needs to be installed. Work will be completed after replacement of Pleasantview Bridge by the Town will be completed.

3. Property Easements – No new activity.

- 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.

B. Report from Friends HRLP on Trail Census: The Friends were selected to participate in a state-wide census of trail use in CT last fall. The Hop River Trail (the Rail Trail in Vernon) is one of 12 major trails. Don Bellingham and the Vernon Greenway Volunteers have been leading the project in Vernon. Don reported that data continues to be taken by the counters on the trail and by hand survey. Preliminary data has been taken, final results will be announced. Preliminary results show that Vernon's Hop River Trail is one of the top most-used trails.

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 10:30 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

**Vernon Greenways Volunteer Report
Nov 17, 2017 to Jan 26, 2018**

Maintenance

Continued weekly service of Church Street, Valley Falls Park and Tunnel Road. Repaired broken VGV Sponsor Sign at Valley Falls on Jan 18th. Census counter checked for operation twice monthly.

Organizational Meeting for Vernon Greenways Volunteers

On January 23, 2018 Joe King and Bruce Luddy attended an organizational meeting on the Vernon Greenways Volunteers to discuss 2018.

**ARTHUR REPORT –
Nov 17, 2017 to Jan 26, 2018**

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My hours to report for this period for HRLP trail are 14 hrs

1. Joe, Bruce Luddy and I did last of the scheduled work parties on the Rt 74 suspended bridge to cement caps on block walls.
2. I prepared and installed Trail Caution signs at both ends of the suspended bridge and the Pleasantview boardwalk.
3. I reported the brush blockage at the Pleasantview Dr brige culverts to Craig Perry. Public Works had already been advised. Apparently the blockage was caused by a neighbor's brush.
4. I skied the trail to the Pleasantview boardwalk and observed the trail was solid and would probably not require any additional boardwalks as long as the ground was frozen. The one planned 8 ft boardwalk will be done in the spring and any new ones that become evident can be done at that time.

The following work was done on non-HRLP trails. (8.5 hrs)

1. I attended the opening ceremony for the Ellington Metcalf Trail and led a hike on the trail.
2. Inspected and cleared other Vernon and CFPA trails.

