

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – March 23, 2018**

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Present: Members: George Arthur, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre
Staff: Marty Sitler; Guest: Don Bellingham

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

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 1/26/18 were approved, motion by George, second by Ginny.

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

C. Current Projects – Status

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

1. Suspended Bridge – Remaining tasks:

- a. Landscaping: Earthworks (Jeff Hutton) was selected to do the landscaping for the berm.
- b. Crosswalk: Dave Smith is working on the DOT permit for crosswalk and signs.
- c. Signs: Ann will draft text for historical sign and for recognition sign, and get a quote from Sign Connection.
- d. Video: Ann reported that Mike Winkler has been collecting photos and editing his tapes of the bridge construction. He will tape a session of Friends discussion of the construction, time & place TBD. The video will be shown at the Vernon Greenways Kickoff Meeting April 24th.
- e. Ribbon-cutting and celebration date yet TBD.

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Update

- a. Remaining work (install plantings, signage) will be completed after replacement of Pleasantview Bridge by the Town has been finished. The Pannier interpretive sign has been delivered to Parks & Rec and will be stored until that time.

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 met.

B. Report from Friends HRLP on Trail Census: Don reported that the final survey numbers have been published. The Vernon trail is the third most used trail. A press release will be drafted and sent to the Director of Administration and Mayor.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. 19 Grove Street – no activity.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education

- a. No activity

3. New Business - none

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am, motion by George, second by Ginny.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

**Vernon Greenways Volunteer Report
Jan 27, 2018 to March 23, 2018**

Maintenance

Continued weekly service of Church Street, Valley Falls Park and Tunnel Road. Census counter checked for operation twice monthly.

Bike Repair Station – Bikewalk Bolton

Bike repair station proposed for Church Street Parking Lot Area. Would allow trail users to repair their bikes on-site: flats, chains, etc. Submitted to United Bank for \$1,500 grant. They evidently lost it. Hartford Foundation is another option as is Untied Technology.

Rolling Museum Bike Tour

Bolton did a Rolling Historic Museum Bike Tour last year and will do again in June. I was asked to add Vernon. Will start at the Sacred Heart parking lot on Route 30. I will do a presentation at the mural. Then visual stop at the bridge over the Tankerhoosen. Vernon Depot presentation will be done on Trail Story Book area. Tripod with picture of dedication plaque over Tunnel Road, Valley Falls Overlook just past 2 mile marker, “Clubhouse Siding” Waterfall historical marker, Freja Park/ Rod Parlee.

Mike Purcaro Meeting

Met with Mike Purcaro at one of his Thursday open door sessions. Spent about ½ hour describing who we are and what we do. He agreed to make a personal donation.

Census Data 2017

Started recording trail users with infrared monitor in January 2017 as one of 15 multiuse trails in Ct. thru University of Ct and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. Adjusted data recently published indicates that the Hop River Trail in Vernon is the third most used trail in the state. Working with Parks and Rec to produce a publication that gets that word out to the public.

**ARTHUR REPORT –
Jan 26, 2018 to March 23, 2018**

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

1. I inspected the Pleasantview boardwalk for downed tree damage after windstorms and observed there was no damage. I did observe a flooded condition under the entire boardwalk and reported it. It was caused by an increase in the river water level caused by recent rain and increased blockage of the culverts under the highway bridge.

The following work was done on non-HRLP trails. (6 hrs)

1. I inspected and cleared other Vernon and CFPA trails.
2. I located and flagged the private property corner that was closest to the recent tree cutting on the P&R Tower hill.