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

Draft Copy  
**Minutes – March 26, 2010**

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VERNON TOWN CLERK

10 APR -5 AM 9:50

**Present:** Members: Ginny Gingras, Don Bellingham, George Arthur, Sonoko Fagan, Ann Letendre;  
Advisor: Bruce Dinnie

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:40 am by Ann Letendre, chairperson.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of January 22, 2010 were approved as drafted. Motion by George, second by Don.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Hockanum River Trail Reports**

- a. Don Bellingham, Trail Manager – See Bellingham report. Don asked if the Committee would consider an approval to cite information about the CT Notable tree at Saxony Park on the VGV website; motion by Ginny, second by George, approved.
- b. George Arthur (Parks & Rec activity) – see Arthur report; George announced he has resigned from the Hockanum River Watershed Association
- c. Bruce Dinnie – Downtown Rockville Trail; Ann distributed two sign designs Lisa had drafted; another will be coming; Committee to comment and select.

**B. Hockanum River Parks & Parking Areas – Review of Needs**

- **Dart Hill South – Property line issue** - Bruce reported that a resolution could not be worked with the abutting owner; the parking lot will be cut at the property line. Ann expressed concern about the unkempt appearance of the abutter's yard which distracts from the park entrance. The Committee planned to meet on the site March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm to discuss possible screening.
- **Dart Hill North** – no report
- **Walgreen Corner** – George reported that the bank has become overgrown; Bruce will ask Dave Bower to cut it back
- **Saxony Mill Park** – Soil needs to be replaced in the garden; need to cut down the black locust on the wall. Knotweed could be cut again.
- **Paper Mill Park** – the bank needs to be cut back again; Bruce will ask Dave B. to treat the invasives there.
- **Tankerhoosen Dam Park** – George had suggested a sitting bench near the dam; Ann will ask the Rotary if they are interested in funding it since they paid for the mill sign.
- **Other Parking Areas** – George reported that he cleaned the Paul's Pizza parking area. He noted that the dumpster for the Indian restaurant is a problem. George will use the Town's Q-send system to write a note about the problem. George asked Bruce if community service workers could be used to clear litter.

**C. New Parks and Trails – Status**

- A. **Vernon Marsh – new grant** – Signed copy received from DEP. Kiosk design and size to be decided. Work to begin this spring.
- B. **Franklin St** – no new report
- C. **Lyman to Pleasant St** – need to obtain funding to complete this section
- D. **Pleasant St to Courthouse One** – Ann reported information from Town Planner on the PZC approval of the Marriot hotel and that the PZC stipulated the easement for the trail across the property.

**D. Grant Status**

- A. **Vernon Marsh** – see above
- B. **Dart Hill Park Playscape** – Ann contacted Claire Janowski to see if state funding would be available. Claire thought it might be possible and asked for a budget proposal. After discussion, Bruce said that Henry Park had a higher priority, since that playscape had to be removed since it did not meet standards; a proposal was sent to Claire for \$80,000 for a new playscape at Henry Park.
- C. **Downtown Rockville Trail** – Bruce suggested that there be a common symbol on each sign, maybe the tower. Ann will ask Lisa. Size of the signs was discussed. It was

thought that the 2 x 3 foot sign might be too big, as originally thought. Ann will ask Lisa about it.

**E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education –**

- A. Talcottville Mill Area – clearing of riparian area** – no new action
- B. Gerald Drive** – Tree cutting on Gerald Drive in riparian area – Don will contact IW agent – he suspects there may be some additional cutting
- C. Other** – Goose problem on Hockanum near WPC plant. Don reported that he estimates that the numbers reached 2000 geese there, but that the numbers are now considerably reduced to the usual 300 or so, so it appears that the area is a migratory stop for the geese. He also reported on the results of information received from Tom Ouelette of the Conservation Commission on goose management problem. Tom noted that the major problem that results is algae in the water resulting from the droppings.

**3. New Business**

- A. HRLP POCD Input** – Ann reported that she gave the presentation to the PZC Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> on the HRLP key goals, to continue to implement the HRLP Master Plan and complete trail links. She asked PZC if the HRLP trail map could be included in the POCD appendix, and PZC agreed.
- B. Hockanum River Trail Maps** – Don reported that the maps have been completed and are ready for distribution.
- C. Marriott Hotel Application** – see item C above  
**Chapman Property – 1100 feet section** – Don said that a base and stonedust needs to be put down. The State has bituminous millings that could be used, but Ann expressed concern that the material was not appropriate near the River and preferred the crushed rock that is normally used. The Committee then questioned if it really needed to be done, some felt that the section was OK as is. The Committee will walk the area after the Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am, motion by Arthur, second by Bellingham.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson

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