

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Draft Copy

Minutes – January 22, 2010

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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 November 20, 2009 were approved as drafted. Motion by Don, second by George. Don requested that a New Business agenda item be added "HRLP Meeting Procedure"; motion George, second George, approved.

Bruce requested a New Business item be added – Dedication of Hockanum Mansions II Trail, approved.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Don Bellingham, Trail Manager – See Bellingham report.
- b. George Arthur (Parks & Rec activity)
- c. Bruce Dinnie – Downtown Rockville Trail; Ginny will contact Heather Crowne to see if she is interested in assisting. Ann reported that Lisa is working the signs, she is doing the text; expect to be done in November.

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

- **Dart Hill South** – Bruce reported that the boundary issue with the abutting commercial operation is not resolved; easement or payment is under discussion for section of parking area that is on the abutter's property. In general, the Park is looking tired, needs new equipment and landscaping.
- **Dart Hill North** – no report
- **Walgreen Corner** – will take a look at it and report back.
- **Saxony Mill Park** – Soil needs to be replaced in the garden; need to cut down the black locust on the wall.
- **Paper Mill Park** – George will check out to see if the vista is impaired and trees need cutting
- **Tankerhoosen Dam Park** – George reports that it looks OK; he suggests that a sitting bench could be put by the dam.
- **Other Parking Areas** – no activity

C. New Parks and Trails – Status

- A. **Vernon Marsh – new grant** - final signed copy not received from DEP yet
- B. **Franklin St** – Doug Smith from Manchester HRLP is working this trail with Ellington CC
- C. **Lyman to Pleasant St** – need to obtain funding to complete this section
- D. **Pleasant St to Courthouse One** – Ann reported that she tried to contact John Giuletti, but the number is unreachable; Ann and George reported that the section by the Colony may be obtained via an easement from the developers who will construct a new Marriott – see below New Business item

D. Grant Status

- A. **Vernon Marsh** – see above
- B. **Dart Hill Park Playscape** – Ann will contact Claire Janowski to see if funding is available from the state

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 – Ann reported that the Inland Wetlands agent has cited owners for violation
- C. **Other** – Don raised the issue of Goose Management in the marsh area near the WPCA facility; he notes that over 600 geese present, at least double previous population. He will contact Tom Ouelette, vice-chairperson of the CC to see if they have any suggestions.

3. New Business

- A. HRLP POCD Input** – Ann reported that the PZC committee has scheduled a meeting to obtain input from the land use committees on Feb. 11. The Committee is looking for achievable goals for the next 10 years. Ann will prepare something and send to the HRLP committee for review. Key goals are to continue to implement the HRLP Master Plan.
- B. Hockanum River Trail Maps** – Don reported that he is preparing new maps of the Dart Hill trails; he will send to the HRLP Committee for review and comment
- C. Marriott Hotel Application – Letter from NCCD; trail on property** – The public hearing is upcoming on the application. The HRLP will request that a trail easement on the property be given to the Town for the HR Trail. Ann reported that she and George met with Dave Askew to review the plans, noting that this is a great opportunity to utilize LID practices and replace the storm drains that currently go into the River. NCCD wrote a letter to the PZC advising as such, and it will be included in the PZC packets. Ann will prepare a statement for the HRLP Committee to be read at the hearing; she will email it to Committee first for review and comment.
- D. Procedures at HRLP Meeting**
Don expressed concern about the cancelled meetings in 2009 and suggested that cancelled meetings be rescheduled rather than skipped. He was also concerned about time management of the meetings since they tend to be long and suggested that an end time be established at the beginning of the meeting. Consensus to adopt both actions by the HRLP Committee.
- E. Dedication of Hockanum Mansions II Trail**
A date of May 12th was set for the dedication at 6:30 pm. Don will contact Candace, the property manager, to see if they are interested in participating. We will need to cite a place to park for the event. Invitations will go to the Mayor, Rep. Janowski, Rep. Lewis, Sen. Guglielmo.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 am, motion by Arthur, second by Bellingham.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson

