DRAFT

Town of Vernon

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

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Minutes – November 20, 2009

Present: Members: Ginny Gingras, Don Bellingham, George Arthur, Joe King, 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.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes of October 2, 2009 were approved as drafted. Motion by King, second by Arthur.

Old Business

A. **Dart Hill North Park and Trails**– (Don Bellingham, Trail Manager) – See Bellingham report. The Committee noted that we have verbal arrangements for trail access across some of the apartment properties, and that it might be good to follow up with actual agreements. George has samples of simple agreements from CFPA and will email them to the chairperson.

   A brush pile was noted on the Countrywood site, within the inland wetlands upland review area. It was decided to see if discussion can be worked with the manager rather than pursue wetlands violation at this point.

B. **Rockville Parks**
   -Paper Mill Park – no new activity
   -Saxony Park – Ginny reported that on her visit to the park she spoke with a man enjoying the park and he said that several people come there regularly. She noted that the back section of the wall needs repair, and that the roses are not doing well due to both lack of good soil and the black locust in the area. The garden soil needs to be removed and the plants have to be replanted. Dennis at Garden Barn had set aside the plants over a year ago – we have already paid for them. George and Joe will look at the feasibility of a trail loop by the sycamores in the spring, but we will also need to evaluate if it would put the sycamores in danger.
   Other – Discussion was noted of dumping on the Rau St section of the Rockville Spur of the Rail Trail. The apartment complex that is doing the dumping is owned by Jim Giuletti. Ann will call him and discuss the problem.

C. **Dart Hill South Park and Trails** – See Bellingham report. George reported that he spoke with Cliff Chapman, and got Cliff's permission to install the stone dust trail connection on the one remaining trail connection, about 1100 ft. Bruce would like to do the work this fall because he isn't sure he will have the staff labor available in spring.

D. **Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report** – (See D. Bellingham report). Of particular note, the Parks and Recreation Dept hosted a very nice thank you picnic for the VGV, which 39 people attended.

E. **HRLP Plan** – As noted at previous meetings, George and Aaron Nash updated the plan. Aaron printed copies of the updated plans for each of the HRLP members. The copies were distributed at the meeting. Ann will follow up and see if the revised plan and map can be put on the Town website.

F. **Hockanum River Watershed Activities** – (See G. Arthur report)

G. **Watershed Studies** – Ann reported that she was invited to the Tolland IWC meeting and they are taking an active role in addressing recommendations in the Tankerhoosen Watershed Management Plan.

H. **Rec. Trails grant status – Lyman Grant.** The project is completed, and a grand opening will be held in the spring, as reported previously.

I. **Rec. Trails grant status - Vernon Marsh Trail Grant –** Ann spoke with Laurie Giannotti at DEP. Laurie said we should receive the contract within the next several days.

J. **Talcottville Mill Clearing – nothing new**

K. **Downtown Rockville Historic Trail –** A meeting was set up for Thursday Dec. 3 at 9:30am for the HRLP Committee to walk the trail areas with Bruce. The Committee will meet at Bruce's office.

New Business:

A. **HRLP Trail map Update (see E. above)**

B. **Item added to the agenda: New hotel in Talcottville.** George reported that several members of the HRLP Committee reviewed the hotel plans in the Town Planner's office. He pointed out to the Town Planner that the Hockanum River trail crosses the parking lot parallel to the River in that area. Mr. Tundermann said he would make note of that to the applicants. George gave the Town Planner a copy of the recent update of the HRLP map Aaron Nash completed. Mr. Tundermann will email pdf copies of the application to Ann, who will distribute to the HRLP Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by King, second by Bellingham.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson