

DRAFT
Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

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Minutes – March 27, 2009

09 APR - 1 AM 11:13

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

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 January 23, 2009 were approved as drafted. Motion by Arthur, second by Gingras.

Old Business

- A. **Dart Hill North Park and Trails**– (Don Bellingham, Trail Manager) –no new activity
- B. **Rockville Parks**
 - Paper Mill Park – no new activity
 - Saxony Park – The metal sign will be epoxied to the rock within the next two weeks. The garden soil will be removed and some additional plantings put in place.
- C. **Dart Hill South Park and Trails** – no new activity. Rapid spread of invasive garlic mustard was noted.
- D. **Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report** – (See Don B. report). Of particular note, the committee was formed that will address cigarette butts on the trails will be posting no smoking signs for the parks.

Earthday Activities: Bruce noted the planned Earthday Activities on Wed, April 22 and the following Saturday, April 25th. Focus will be on invasive plant removal in addition to cleanup and planting. On **Wed, April 22, 9:30am to 12 pm** - Valley Falls Park – George will work with volunteers to cut down the "Tree of Heaven"; Ginny will organize a team to pull garlic mustard. Scouts will also do some litter pickup, plantings and invasive removal. Similar activities will be held the following Saturday, April 25 at Valley Falls Park and other locations.

Discussion led to the need to remove garlic mustard in Dart Hill Park. **A walk and "Garlic Mustard Pull" was planned for Sunday, May 17, 1:00pm.** Ann will do PR for the event, noting the ongoing program by Parks and Recreation, that they are asking the public for help - given that P&R does not have available staff to undertake this activity. George presented a chart he had completed showing specific invasive plants identified in each of the parks. The information also included a table showing a schedule and methods for removing the invasives.

- E. **Update HRLP Master Plan – and New Business Item A – New Map for HRLP Master Plan** George Arthur worked with Aaron Nash to put the HRLP Master Plan map into the Town GIS system as a separate data layer. The Committee reviewed the Plan in detail and addressed questions and changes raised by George. George will input the changes into the map. George and Ann will arrange to meet with Town Planner Len Tundermann to advise him of the map updates, which will be incorporated into the POCD revision in progress.

New Business: B – Revise meeting schedule. It was suggested that the meeting schedule be changed to three evening meeting to accommodate a possible new volunteer. Ann will check with the volunteer, Jerry Kinsman, about his interest. If no interest, meeting time will remain the same. ***(Because review of the map took considerable time, the remaining agenda items (F, G, H, I and J) were deferred to the next meeting. Ann will send an email updating grant status, and asked the HRLP Committee to refer to the reports submitted by Don and George.)***

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am, motion by Gingras, second by Arthur.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson