



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

LAUREN DESROCHER  
CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL  
PAM MCCORMICK  
ERIN STAVENS  
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM  
LINDA ANDERSON  
JUDI MANFRE  
ANN MCLAUGHLIN

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
September 2, 2020  
Via GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher, Linda Anderson, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Judi Manfre, Val Amsel, Pam McCormick, Cynthia van Zelm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann McLaughlin, Erin Stavens

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **II. CITIZENS FORUM: None**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 1, 2020

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 1, 2020 MEETING MINUTES.

B. June 17, 2020

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2020 MEETING MINUTES.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Farmers Market/Ribbon Cutting Recap

Cynthia van Zelm stated that Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson, Val Amsel and herself were all in attendance at the market and handed out nearly all of the maps provided for the Batz and Kimball properties. A list of emails was collected for potential volunteers. Cynthia stated that she believed the position of the table within the Farmer's Market was beneficial.

Chairman Desrocher and Ms. Anderson recapped the ribbon cutting for the Sensory Garden which was well attended. Committee members present at the event were able to assess the proposed site for the wheelchair accessible platform which would overlook the frog pond.

Ms. Anderson discussed the Raptor program held at the Batz property in July. The event was a successful joint venture with the Hall Memorial Library and was well attended. Guests were respectful of social distancing requirements and wore masks.

#### B. Safety Marker Presentation – Tom Palshaw

Tom Palshaw went through the presentation that he had created regarding the proposed safety markers [ATTACHED]. The Committee will continue discussion of this proposed project at the next meeting so that work can get underway over the winter.

#### C. Current Project Updates

Ms. Anderson attended a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where the Tripp Road development, which would grant access to the Eversource land proposed for a walking/bike path, was voted down. This project will be tabled until further notice. Unfortunately, the bats expert originally booked for a program at Batz will not be able to work an event this year due to health concerns. Eagle Scout Ben Lipman met with Ms. Anderson to discuss the relocation of his proposed Composting Project and to have his plans signed for approval. Judi Manfre built and installed two resting benches on the Kimball Forest trail and proposes one additional bench for that property in the future. Ms. Amsel placed directional signs and signs regarding tick warnings, as well as boundary markers, on the Batz trails. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel were able to continue work on the Kimball extension trail and will blaze in the near future, changing the color of the blazes to avoid confusion with the Shenipsit Trail across the road. The proposed well improvement project at the Batz property has been tabled as the existing well does not appear viable and a hand pump for surface water would need to be located too far from the gardens to be convenient. It may be possible to look into adding an additional rain collection tank in the future. The front field has recently been mowed and due to the drought, it may be a good time to seed for a wildflower meadow. The Fire Department continues to fill the water collection tanks throughout the drought. Bruce Dinnie has been working to clear a new trail in the Metcalf property to reroute around the fallen trees from 2019. The trail needs re-blazing and weeds need to be removed from the road entrance.

#### D. Discussion of Invasive Plant Maintenance

Ms. Manfre addressed the needs for removing invasives along the exposed portions of the Batz Trail and recommends focusing on one species at a time.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Winter Work Planning

Winter work planning will be discussed at the October meeting.

#### B. Youth Liaison Consideration

Ms. van Zelm met two young men at the Farmers Market who were interested in joining the Committee; the Committee was advised that regular members must be over the age of 18, but a request could be made to the Board of Selectmen to add student/associate member positions. Ms. van Zelm will communicate this to the interested parties.

**VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Treasurer

Ms. Timms-Ferrara reminded the members that the Finance Department has requested that purchases only be made through approved vendors, as they would prefer not to reimburse individuals by check. She will request a list of approved vendors.

B. Planning & Development

Ms. Anderson will attend the next Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to discuss the proposed platform at the frog pond; she and Mr. Dinnie will create a schematic to be shown. It is important to get this project underway soon while conditions are dry and the water level is low. Ms. Anderson and Ms. van Zelm will work through the necessary avenues to gain approval for the proposed amphitheater at the Batz Property, and will then begin the grant process to secure funding. Chairman Desrocher will look into purchasing two wildlife cameras for the Kimball Forest trails.

C. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel reported that maintenance continues on invasive plants and they may look into purchasing a specialty tool to pull them out by the root. Ms. Manfre will be working to create a visual guide to invasives for the full Committee.

D. Community Outreach

Ms. Timms-Ferrara wrote and submitted the Committee summary for the Annual Report. Ms. van Zelm will put together the next newsletter piece. Ms. McCormick requested that the cancellation of the Trail of Treats be posted on the Trails Facebook page at this time; Ms. Anderson will communicate this cancellation to Julia Connor to have it disbursed on the Town's social media as well.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Submitted by Julia Connor

# DRAFT PROPOSAL

EMERGENCY LOCATION SIGNS  
FOR ELLINGTON TRAILS

# DRAFT PROPOSAL

- This is a concept, not a plan.
- The concept has been accepted by the Ad-Hoc Emergency Services Committee.
- Individual trail plans can be developed by the Trails Committee if they accept the concept.

# THE NEED

- It is difficult to locate injured or lost hikers.
- Hikers may not know what trail they are on.
- Much valuable time is spent trying to locate hikers in need by 911 (TN), EVFED, CLFD, or EVAC.

# PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Brightly colored location signs can be placed along trail that identify the trail (by letter designation) and location (by number designation).
- Examples: F6, B2, W1

# LETTER DESIGNATORS

- **Examples:**
- **H= Windermere Trail (Hockanum River)**
- **Z= Batz Trail**
- **S= Sunset Trail**
- **W= West Road Trail**
- **B= Balanced Boulder Trail**
- **F= Franklin Street Trail**







# TAB<sup>L</sup>E DEFINITIONS

- Ident = Sign letter and number.
- Location = Object holding the sign.
- Nearest Access = Entry defined by  
Emergency Services Agencies
- Dist to Sign = Distance from entrance to  
sign in feet if less than 1 mile, in miles if  
greater than 1.

# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Improved hazard location & identification.
- Improved maintenance needs communication.



# PLAN MAINTENANCE

- Trail signs should be inspected annually to ensure effectiveness.

# COSTS

- Custom produced signs for each trail.
- 4 x 4 short posts as needed by each trail.
- Produce high quality trail maps and binders for each emergency service and TN(?).
- Labor (Enlist Eagle Scouts to install plan).

## WHAT IS NEXT

- Ad Hoc Committee accepts the concept.
- Ad Hoc Committee develops detailed plan for one trail and presents design to Ad hoc Emergency Services Committee for approval.
- Purchase signs and posts upon approval.
- Consider Scout troops to install signs.
- Repeat for other trails.