



# 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  
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM  
LINDA ANDERSON  
JUDI MANFRE  
ANN MCLAUGHLIN  
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK  
KEN RADZIWON

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2021  
Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Valerie Amsel, Ann McLaughlin, Cynthia van Zelm, Lauren Desrocher, Linda Anderson, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Pam McCormick, Judi Manfre, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Ken Radziwon

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**II. Citizens' Forum:** No citizens came forward.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. January 6, 2021**

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Trails Day**

Ms. van Zelm reported that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) Trails Day will take place on June 5-6, 2021, with public registration to begin on May 20. Hikes will be limited to 15 per group, although multiple groups may be arranged and staggered. Registration will be virtual this year and CFPA will not disclose the addresses of the hikes unless a party has already registered in order to keep numbers down. Per CFPA rules, hikers must be masked and maintain appropriate physical distancing, handouts are not allowed and there will be no group photos taken. Ms. van Zelm recommended that the event be held at the Batz Property due to its spaciousness and the features the committee has and will be adding.

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARK ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL TRAILS DAY FOR 2021.

**V. Old Business****A. Batz Updates**

Ms. McCormick and Ms. Timms-Ferrara reported that they have been working on the Batz trails. There is a small section (white/blue blazes) that will need to be re-blazed due to storm damage. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel have recently installed boundary markers, "No Hunting" and "No Motorized Vehicle" signs around the perimeter of the large field. Ms. Anderson will work with Public Works to resolve the gap around the existing gate to discourage use of dirt bikes on the trail and fields, as they continue to take damage.

Ms. Amsel reported that she spoke with community members who were using Batz for snowshoeing - having rented snowshoes from the Recreation Department - who found themselves stuck and needed to have their vehicle towed out of the parking lot. The Committee agreed that it will be vital to have the Batz parking lot plowed during the winter of 2021-2022 and will continue to advocate for the same.

Ms. Anderson reported that the Amphitheater Proposal was passed by the Planning & Zoning Commission and an Eagle Scout is working on plans to fund and construct the 18 accompanying benches. He will present his proposal in April.

Ms. Amsel reported that the price for the 12x16 stage platform will be approximately \$2300 before the addition of an accessibility ramp. She requested that Mr. Radziwon review her plans. Ms. Amsel is in continued discussion with the Opening Knight Players group from Ellington High School as they have offered to assist in construction and funding.

Ms. Anderson reported that Public Works will be improving the entrance to the Batz trails with gravel, per the Fire Marshal's request. Boy Scout Troop 96 will address the existing outhouse and either remove or reinforce the current structure.

**B. The Good News Show**

Ms. Desrocher indicated that she had spoken with Monique Lussier about an appearance on The Good News Show via Zoom to be recorded on April 1. Ms. Anderson stated that this date would be too early, as the committee expects Eagle Scout Aiden Stratoudaikis to present his project plans at the meeting on April 7 and the recording would have to be done after that date in order to include his segment. Ms. Desrocher will follow up with Ms. Lussier.

**C. Spring Cleanup**

Ms. Amsel reported that she, Ms. Manfre, Ms. McLaughlin, and a community volunteer have completed clearing the trails at Kimball Forest for the spring.

Ms. McCormick reported that the Windermere Trail is in good condition and that the Hockanum River Committee will address a hole in one of the bridges.

Ms. Amsel stated that in April she will be looking for groups to assist with maintenance and invasives.

**VI. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Treasurer: Ms. Timms-Ferrara reported that she had met with Finance along with Ms. Desrocher and Ms. Anderson and that the \$1400 raised from the last Trail of Treats must be spent by May. These funds will be used to facilitate educational programming. Ms. Timms-Ferrara reported that \$2520 remains in the 2020-2021 budget which will support projects at the Batz Property. The 2021-22 budget request was submitted as the same request made for 2020-21.

Ms. Anderson stated that per Finance, the Committee needs to gather paperwork from any unapproved vendors early in order to have them added to the Town's list.

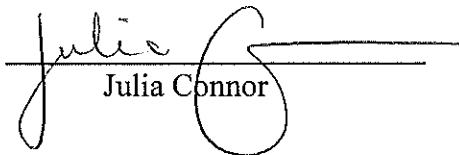
- B. Planning & Development: No report was given.
- C. Maintenance: No report was given.
- D. Community Outreach: Ms. van Zelm suggested looking into the possibility of having drone footage recorded of the trails or of an event.

Ms. Anderson stated that maps should be updated as soon as possible to have them added to the Town's website. Mr. Radziwon suggested creating QR codes for each trail rather than printing paper maps. Ms. Desrocher reminded the group that all trails need to have their GPS mapping updated.

**VII. Adjournment**

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:34 PM.

Submitted by

  
Julia Connor