



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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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
April 7, 2021
Via Zoom

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

MEMBER ABSENT: Lauren Desrocher

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Thomas Palshaw, Aidan Stratoudakis

I. Call to Order

Linda Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Citizens' Forum: Thomas Palshaw reported that the Hockanum River Committee had fixed the damaged bridge near the radio towers.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 3, 2021

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Emergency Sign Proposal Update – Tom Palshaw

Mr. Palshaw reported that the signs will be approximately 3" x 4", yellow with black lettering. Ms. Anderson will get cost estimates as the Committee will be responsible for this cost. Mr. Palshaw would like a volunteer to walk the trails with him as he creates measurements and will have an estimate on the number of signs needed. Valerie Amsel volunteered to assist Mr. Palshaw with this.

The Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) has agreed to add signs to the Balanced Boulder Trail but will not be adding signs to the Sunset Hill Trail, due to its shorter length.

Mr. Palshaw mentioned that once he has GPSed the trails for the signs, he would be willing to create and print new maps for the Committee.

B. Batz Improvements Progress Report

i. Eagle Scout Presentation – Amphitheater Benches

Eagle Scout Aidan Stratoudakis presented plans for 18 benches to be used for seating at the amphitheater at Batz. The Committee agreed that the plans are appropriate and that they look forward to working with him.

Ms. Anderson noted that Public Works has recently improved the gravel road and added ‘no parking’ signs to designate a fire lane in accordance to the request by the Fire Marshal. Public Works has installed a new gate with a new chain and key. The key will be stored at the First Selectman’s Office. Public Works will be mowing the back fields three times during the year, but the wildflower fields up front will not be mowed.

Ms. Anderson reports that plastic has been applied to help control invasive species in the Wildflower Fields.

V. New Business

Lois Timms-Ferrara has agreed to assist the Finance Subcommittee until the budget has passed in June. The Committee extended their thanks for Ms. Timms-Ferrara’s dedicated work during her time with the Committee.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer: No additional report was given.

B. Planning & Development: Ms. Timms-Ferrara stated that State Representative Jaime Foster has approached her, indicating that the State of Connecticut has some project money available. Ms. Timms-Ferrara will approach the Recreation Department to see if it is possible to add a well and/or solar pump to the Community Gardens if the Town were able to secure funding from the State.

Ms. Anderson discussed meeting with Rachel Dearborn to examine existing trails and boundaries at the town parcel on Crystal Ridge. Mr. Radziwon commented that it is important that a memo be sent to neighboring properties from the Town before any work begins on that parcel.

C. Maintenance: Ms. Amsel stated that Kimball Forest and Batz Property Trails have been cleaned and raked for Spring. The next property to be cleaned will be Metcalf. Ms. Anderson noted that there may be some Girl Scout Troops interested in assisting.

Ms. Anderson noted that Boy Scout Troop 96 will address the refurbishment of the outhouse at Batz Property and that construction of the amphitheater stage by the Opening Knight Players will commence in the last two weeks of April.

Ms. Anderson reported that a local couple and their dog extended a big “thank you,” for the recent cleaning of the trails at Batz.

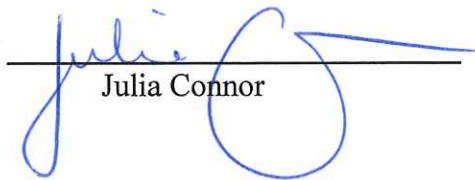
Ms. Anderson reposted that on April 24th, the Boy Scouts will be assisting with removal of invasives at Batz.

D. Community Outreach: Ms. Van Zelm stated that she submitted her segment for the April Newsletter.

Trails Day sign-up will begin on May 20th and the Committee will submit information in the May Newsletter, on Facebook, and emails will be sent to the current volunteer list.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:01 PM.

Submitted By: 
Julia Connor