



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK
KEN RADZIWON

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021
Town Hall Meeting Hall / Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Ken Radziwon*, Valerie Amsel, Cynthia van Zelm,
Pam McCormick, Ann McLaughlin*, Judi Manfre*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher*, Bruce Dinnie*

*present via Zoom

I. Call to Order

Linda Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Citizens' Forum: None

III. Election of Officers

A. Chairman

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ELECT LINDA ANDERSON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS
COMMITTEE.

B. Vice Chairman

MOVED (MCCORMICK), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ELECT CYNTHIA VAN ZELM AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. April 7, 2021

Pam McCormick was not present at the April 7, 2021 meeting, as indicated on the minutes. Her
absence should be reflected appropriately.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2021 REGULAR MEETING, AS AMENDED.

V. Old Business

A. Batz Improvements Progress Report

Ms. Amsel reported that the Opening Knight Players (OKP) have been working hard at building the amphitheater stage which will be completed in only a few more sessions. Ms. Amsel has concerns about adding an access ramp to the stage due to unauthorized dirt-bike and motorized vehicle use in the area. There are concerns about creating a portable ramp, as some of the lumber being stored at the site has already gone missing. Ms. Amsel has cleaned up and replaced the sensory garden for the season.

Ms. Anderson reported that on April 24, OKP and the Boy Scouts worked to remove invasives and cleared a large portion of the frog pond. Boy Scout Troop 96 has refurbished the existing outhouse.

Ms. Amsel and Ms. Anderson are impressed with the OKP students' knowledge of carpentry and their willingness to work on other projects on site.

Ms. Anderson stated that Mr. Stratoudakis has begun fundraising for bench construction. He will be putting out a press release to this end soon. OKP's Thespian Troupe will also assist in construction of the benches. Plaques will be created crediting the Girl Scout who originally built the outhouse and OKP for the stage.

Ms. Anderson reported some vandalism at Batz. There has been spray painting on the Little Free Library, chives have been dug and removed from the sensory garden and some of the TREX for the stage has been stolen.

B. Trail at Crystal Lake

Ms. Anderson reported a casual conversation with First Selectman Spielman regarding the process to approve work at the Crystal Ridge site. The Committee will follow the usual formal route to present a plan to the Board of Selectmen and will then invite neighbors to a future meeting to voice any concern.

Ms. Anderson encouraged all Committee members to visit the site and asked if any members had concerns about pursuing the project. None were heard.

VI. New Business

A. Hockanum River Association

Ms. Anderson reported that the Board of Selectmen has voted to combine the Hockanum River Association with the Ellington Ad Hoc Trails Committee. This increases the number of seats on the Trails Committee to 14. Unfortunately, the current HRA members are not interested in combining committees and would prefer to report to the Committee independently. Ms. Anderson expressed concern that 14 members may be too many to fill and may create a quorum issue when it comes to voting and that the Committee will consider a request to reduce membership to 12. HRA will continue to maintain non-Town-owned trails, but the Trails

Committee is unable to direct Town Funds to any of those projects. HRA will reach out for any assistance with labor and the Trails Committee will gladly assist where possible.

B. Farmers Market

Ms. van Zelm reported that she has spoken with the Market Master and the schedule has not been created yet. She will follow up at the end of the month.

Ms. Anderson reported that she was unaware of the Women's Club's fair, but that the Committee should pursue the opportunity next year.

C. Individual Subcommittee Choices

Ms. Anderson reviewed the subcommittee options. Ms. McLaughlin is interested in filling Ms. Timms-Ferrara's seat as Treasurer and Ms. Timms-Ferrara has agreed to assist Ms. McLaughlin in transition. Ms. Desrocher's resignation has left the Planning and Development subcommittee empty. Ms. Van Zelm suggested reviewing the subcommittee options and waiting to make official selections until June. Ms. Amsel, Ms. McCormick and Ms. McLaughlin will continue to stay on the Maintenance Subcommittee.

D. Girl Scouts

Ms. Anderson shared that local Troops will have a jamboree at Batz this summer and will work to refurbish the fire pit. Other work includes the possibility of building bluebird boxes and placing a wildlife camera at Kimball Forest.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer

Ms. Anderson reported that the estimate for finishing construction on the amphitheater still falls within the 2020 budget (including the Trail of Treats funds from 2019). Ms. Anderson reported that OKP will be donating funds toward the construction of the stage and that this has been cleared by Finance. These donated funds would need to be used within the next fiscal year.

There is no update on the passage of the 2021/22 budget at this time.

B. Planning & Development: There was no report given.

C. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel reported that she is looking to visit Metcalf to rake soon. Ms. Anderson suggested that there may be some Girl Scouts willing to assist.

Ms. Manfre will be hauling the multiflora debris from Batz to the brush dump this week.

D. Community Outreach

Ms. van Zelm reported that the May newsletter has been sent out and contains information on the amphitheater and many photos of the work going on at Batz. Ms. Anderson reviewed how to find the newsletter on the Town website.

Ms. van Zelm reported that the Trails Day event for CFPA has been published. She reviewed the allowed numbers and regulations from Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Ms. Anderson and Ms. McLaughlin will lead one group of hikers and Ms. Amsel and Ms. van Zelm will lead a second group if necessary. The event is estimated to last approximately an hour. Ms. Anderson will send an email to the volunteer list regarding the event including an announcement regarding the amphitheater.

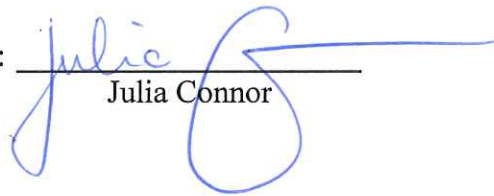
Ms. Anderson noted that there will be a raptor presentation by Horizon Wings in early August which should be hosted at the new amphitheater and will be a joint production with Hall Memorial Library. Jane Seymour will host another wildflower discussion and walk this year as well.

Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee consider the possibility of two ribbon cutting ceremonies or a soft open for the amphitheater with a production by OKP when it is complete.

VIII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:02 PM.

Submitted By: _____


Julia Connor