



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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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
June 2, 2021
Batz Property

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Valerie Amsel, Pam McCormick, Ann McLaughlin,
Judi Manfre

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Radziwon, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Cynthia van Zelm

I. Call to Order

Linda Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

II. Citizens' Forum: No citizens came forward.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. May 5, 2021

There were a few changes to the May meeting minutes. Mrs. Amsel opened the sensory path for the season. The Opening Knight Players (OKP) cleaned and mulched the garden. Aidan Stratoudakis will be building the benches, with the help of Troop 96, instead of the OKP Thespian Troupe. Judi Manfre has been added to the Maintenance Subcommittee.

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2021 REGULAR MEETING, AS AMENDED.

IV. Old Business

A. Batz Improvements Progress Report

i. Amphitheater Stage

The Amphitheater Stage has been completed by the OKP; Mrs. Anderson stated that a donation of \$700 is being asked for to pay for wood to increase the size of the stage, per OKP's request.

ii. Amphitheater Benches

Mrs. Anderson shared that Aidan Stratoudakis has received all necessary funding to start production of the benches; there is no current timeline on the completion or installation of the benches.

iii. Access Ramp

A handicap ramp needs to be available for the stage; due to motor bike activity concerns, it will not be a permanent ramp, according to Mrs. Anderson. Valerie Amsel and Pam McCormick did some research on a portable aluminum ramp, offered by Discount Ramps, that is available for \$549.49. The ramp is 10-feet long and folds up so it can be transported easily; it also accommodates uneven terrain. Mrs. Anderson suggested that this ramp be purchased as soon as the funds are available under the new budget; she also suggested approaching the Town to split the cost of the ramp.

iv. Fire Pit

Girl Scouts from Troops 10367, 10725, 10726, 10744 and 10747 fixed the fire pit, digging it out and adding more stones. They also planted a garden in their community plot where they will grow vegetables for local food banks. Mrs. Anderson stated that this work was done on May 22.

v. Sensory Garden – Weeding/Watering, Planting, Signs

Mrs. Anderson is weeding and watering the garden, with the help of an OKP member who needs community hours. All information signs have been put out.

vi. Weed Wacking

Mrs. Amsel, along with David Pechie, a community gardener, mowed and weed-wacked around the garden so it would look great for Trails Day on June 5.

vii. Poison Ivy and Invasives

Judi Manfre removed the cut up multiflora and brought the cuttings to the dump; multiflora will continue to be cut down along the access road. Mrs. Anderson will try to tackle the project of spraying poison ivy around the fire pit and in both back fields.

B. Crystal Ridge Trail

Rachel Dearborn will GPS the boundary lines and proposed trails as soon as she gets a chance.

C. Individual Subcommittee Choices

The individual subcommittee choices are as follows:

Maintenance – Valerie Amsel, Judi Manfre, Pam McCormick, Ann McLaughlin

Treasurer – Ann McLaughlin

Planning and Development – Linda Anderson

Community Outreach – Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm

Mrs. Anderson stated that Deanna Wambolt-Gulick and Ken Radziwon may choose subcommittees when they are ready.

D. Girl Scouts at Batz

The Girl Scouts will be at Batz the evening of July 23 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, weeding and watering the Sensory Garden and the fruit trees, as well as setting up a wildlife cam. Any wildlife showing up on the cam will be shared with the Trails Committee and posted on their Facebook Page, Mrs. Anderson shared.

E. Trails Day**i. Sign Ups**

There were eight registrations at the time of the meeting.

ii. Masks

Masks will not be required.

iii. Advertising

Advertising for the hike was sent out in the Town newsletter, on the Trails Facebook page and sent out to the Committee's email lists. Mrs. Anderson will lead the hike, with Ann McLaughlin, Cynthia van Zelm and Valerie Amsel if needed.

V. New Business**A. South Windsor Walk and Wheel – South Windsor Crosstown Trail**

Mrs. Anderson shared that an email was received from Ginny Hole, a member of the Walk and Wheel Group from South Windsor, concerning the installation of the Crosstown Trail. The Trail will end at the Ellington Town Line with a parking lot to access the trail on Niederwerfer Road in South Windsor, which is very close to the border of Ellington. This trail will be built along the Eversource corridor and give South Windsor residents the ability to bike or walk all the way to Hartford.

It would be a great for the Town of Ellington to pursue its own Crosstown Trail and give residents the opportunity to use the trail to bike/walk to Hartford. Mrs. Anderson talked to Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, who has already mapped out where the trail would go using the Eversource corridor and identified the property owners along this corridor.

Mrs. Anderson will be talking to Ginny Hole to get more information on how they went about planning and raising the money for this project; Pam McCormick will gather information as well.

B. Eagle Scout Divyesh Paladugu – Benches at Windermere

Mrs. Anderson talked with Eagle Scout Divyesh Paladugu about installing benches on the Windermere Trail. Tom Palshaw of the Hockanum River Association does not have a problem with adding benches to the trail, and the members agreed that it would be beneficial. Mrs. Anderson will confirm the approval with Divyesh.

Mrs. Anderson has been in contact with Madeleine Willet, a junior at Ellington High. Miss Willet is starting a group that will teach and promote environmentally-conscious habits and actions in the community. She is looking for a spot to plant flowers or shrubs to attract pollinators for one of their first projects. Mrs. Anderson suggested a location at Batz where the Committee would like to plant native shrubs such as blueberries, sweetpepper, etc. The group will handle the labor, and the Committee will provide the necessary supplies.

The Committee discussed ways to stop vehicles from going around the back gate through the wetlands and forming a new path. It was agreed that concrete barriers would be the last option considered. Large logs or stumps would be the best natural way to stop access. Mrs. Amsel may reach out to Mountain Tree Service for assistance. Mrs. Anderson will get a date on the calendar in August for an invite-only Ribbon Cutting at the Batz Amphitheater.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ann McLaughlin will meet with former treasurer Lois Timms-Ferrara to go over the transfer of duties. Mrs. Anderson gave Ms. McLaughlin a list of vendors that the Committee will need to put on the Finance Department's list of approved vendors for future use.

Mrs. Anderson stated that the Committee is very close to using up their budgeted funds for 2020-2021, and what is left will go to paying Bruce Dinnie for his services.

B. Planning & Development

There were no further updates.

C. Maintenance

Mrs. Amsel stated that the tree that was down at Kimball was removed by Bruce Dinnie. Mrs. Amsel finished blazing the small section of the trail at Batz. Mrs. Manfre took all the multiflora that was cut down at Batz to the dump.

Pam McCormick commented that instead of boundary signs, trail groups have started to use purple blazes on the trees. The purple means you are entering private property. The Committee was not sure anyone would know the meaning of the purple blazes without lots of education, but it is something to consider going forward.

D. Community Outreach

Trails Day is on June 5.

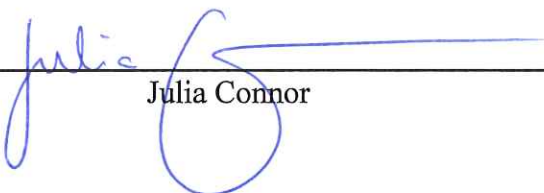
Mrs. van Zelm will be reaching out to the Farmers' Market for a date for the Committee to have a table.

The Trails Committee's contribution to the June Ellington Newsletter has been published. There are two events that the Committee is sponsoring this summer. Jane Seymour will give a presentation on Native Plants and Pollinators at Batz at 10:00 am on July 17 (rain date July 23) and there will be a Raptors event with Hall Memorial Library at Batz on August 3 at 10:00 am. Mrs. Anderson will also be working on setting up an event with a bat expert and a geology event.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:30 PM.

Submitted by



Julia Connor