



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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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
Special Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021
Hall Memorial Library

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Pam McCormick, Judi Manfre, Ann McLaughlin, Ken Radziwon, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. Call to Order

Linda Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Citizens' Forum: Tom Palshaw reported on the Hockanum River Trail. Mowing has been done and will continue when the rain/flooding levels allow. Trees have been removed, and a bench was recently stolen from the property.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 2, 2021

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Batz Improvements Progress Report

i. Amphitheater Benches

Aiden Stratoudakis will start production in July; there is not an installation date set yet. Linda Anderson asked Ann McLaughlin to contact the Finance Office to approve the vendor for the ramp, Discount Ramps, in order to have the ramp available for upcoming events.

ii. Compost Bin

Eagle Scout Benjamin Lipman will be installing the compost bin at the Batz Property within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

iii. Girl Scouts Day – July 23

Mrs. Anderson reminded everyone that the Girl Scouts will be at the Batz Property on July 23rd between 5:00-6:30 pm, helping to weed the gardens and install a wildlife cam; Mrs. Anderson will be there to help, and everyone is welcome to stop by.

iv. Madeleine Willet – Youth for the Future EHS Group

Mrs. Anderson met with Madeleine and another member of the group and discussed planting native shrubs in the strip of grass before the gate at the Batz Property; there was also discussion about a solar pump. The group would supply the labor and the Committee would supply the materials. They will be meeting with the other 15-20 members of the group to decide which project to take on; the group would also like to use the Amphitheatre for environmental talks in the future.

v. Ribbon Cutting

The ribbon cutting may be canceled depending on when the benches are installed.

B. Crystal Ridge Trail

There is no new news; Ken Radziwon recommended GPS mapping the parcel in the fall, as it is easier to do when the leaves are off the trees.

C. Eversource Corridor Trail

Mrs. Anderson and Pam McCormick attended the South Windsor Walk and Wheel meeting on July 7. The South Windsor Committee members were seeing the plans for their 6.5 mile Crosstown Trail, presented by Kevin Grindle of Anchor Engineering Services, for the first time. The plan is to break up the trail by segments, with the first located near Sullivan Avenue. They will try to stay within the Eversource corridor, using some of the haul roads, but also may have to use sidewalks and other routes when necessary. The plan is for the trail to be mostly paved, and the estimated time for completion is six to ten years, and it will go to the Ellington Town Line. Ginny Hole, the Walk and Wheels Chairman, sent a detailed list on how to go about creating a similar trail in Ellington, from necessary approvals to grant money available. After discussion, the Committee members felt that this project should be handled by a separate Ad Hoc group. Mrs. Anderson, Ms. McCormick and Mr. Radziwon will meet with Lori Spielman, Lisa Houlihan, Tim Webb and Dustin Huguenin to discuss next steps.

D. Emergency Signs Update

Tom Palshaw informed the Committee that all of the emergency signs have been made for the Windermere, Franklin, Batz and Kimball trails. In August, a Committee member will walk the trails with Mr. Palshaw to decide where to install them and make a map of the locations for the emergency services agencies. Information signs will also be created for each trail head, explaining the purpose of the signs, and information will also be shared on the Committee Facebook page.

V. New Business

The Ellington Historical Society has reached out to Cynthia van Zelm regarding having a table at their Harvest Festival on October 16; they would like the Committee to include a craft that children could make. Judi Manfre and Deanna Wambolt-Gulick will research a suitable craft and would like to man this table, along with any other interested members.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ms. McLaughlin reported that the Committee has a budget of \$8,000; she was able to get Ernst Seeds approved as a vendor, and will work on getting more vendors approved. She was also able to access the new Town Finance System.

B. Planning & Development

There were no further updates.

C. Maintenance

There are rotten trees at the Metcalf Property that need to be addressed; Ms. Amsel has been looking into the problem. Mountain Tree may need to be contracted to get some of the worst ones taken down.

i. Batz Property

Mrs. Anderson mentioned that the chair on the side of the Little Library has some rotten boards; Mrs. Manfre will see if she can repair it. Mrs. Anderson will try to control the poison ivy in the back field at Batz in between all the rain.

D. Community Outreach**i. Trails Day Results**

Eight people joined the Committee at the Batz Property for a hike on June 5; it was a great group on a very hot day.

ii. Farmers' Market

The date is September 4; Mrs. Anderson asked for volunteers to man the table, but since it is over Labor Day weekend no one is available. The Committee will try another date or pass for this year.

iii. Jane Seymour Event

The Jane Seymour event is scheduled for July 17 at 10:00 am at the Batz Property.

iv. Raptors Event

The Raptor Event is scheduled for August 3rd at 10:00 am at the Batz Property; registration is required through the Hall Memorial Library.

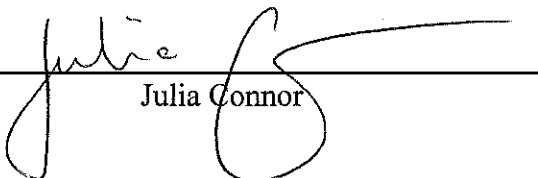
v. CT Trails Finder

There was no further information given.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:05 PM.

Submitted by


Julia Connor