



TOWN OF VERNON

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
c/o Parks & Recreation Dept.
120 South Street
Vernon, CT 06066

DRAFT
Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2021

Present: Members: George Arthur, Don Bellingham, Ann Letendre; Staff advisor, Marty Sitler, Director, Parks & Rec; Guest, Travis Clark, Cemetery Superintendent

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Ann Letendre, Chairman

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2021 were approved, motion by George, second by Don. The trail report from Vernon Greenway Volunteers is attached to the minutes.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

Refer to the Vernon Greenway Volunteers report (attached) for details.

B. Review of trail needs at HRLP sites

- Saxony Park: Discussion about re-doing the trail along the river and creating a trail loop on the site back to the Sycamore. No action decided.
- WPCA and D. Smith bridge: At the May meeting Don had reported that a 'No Parking' sign is needed in front of the berm. No action decided. Don will contact Ellington Town Planner about the confusion hikers experience on trail directions behind the Ellington Y.

C. Current Grant Projects - Status

SustainableCT grant: Rail on berm to D. Smith Bridge – Ann reported that she has been in contact with a West Hartford iron fence installer for a quote.

D. New HRLP Trail Development / New Grant Applications

- a. Dart Hill Loop Trail – No further action; Ann also reported that Rashid Hamid's plans have been approved by Inland Wetlands and P&Z, and the approval includes the trail installation on that portion of the trail.
- b. Pleasantview to Manchester Line Trail Section – Dave Turkington was going to work on trail clearing, but Marty reported that Dave Turkington has left P&R. Ann tried contacting the French Society on Kelly Road via website, but no contact information is given other than an address. She will continue to try other means.

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- c. Papermill Pond to Snipsic Lake – The Committee welcomed Travis Clark to discuss the possibility of passing through Grove Cemetery. The Committee will meet on the site on Tuesday at 10 am with Travis to discuss further.
- d. Trail Census – Don reported that they have done a trail census to validate the tracking data.

E. River Protection: Action, Public Education - No Action

F. Other HRLP items: none

3. New Business – none

- 4. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am, motion by Don, second by George, approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report May 28 to July 23, 2021

Trail Manager & Planting Adopter Continuation

All Planting Adopters agreed to return and the one Trail Manager that declined from West Street to Vernon Avenue has been replaced.

Sustainable Ct Grant

All funds from Sustainable Ct have been received. The repair of the Tankerhoosen Bridge on the Rockville Extension between Maple Avenue and Route 30 is completed. The railing on the steep incline from ground level to the bridge at the Dave Smith Suspended Bridge has yet to be completed.

Work Parties in 2021

We have had eleven work parties for 116 volunteer hours since since our last meeting on May 28th; one outing for Spring Cleaning of our 10 plantings for a total of 16 hours; one outing to remove graffiti from the mural for 8 hours. Participate in Talcottville Parade 6 hours. Monitor the counters at Church Street for two sessions 8 hours. Trail Maintenance Team five sessions for 68 hours. Weed Whacking Team one session for 10 hours.

Mural

The mural for 2021 has been completed except for two new side panels which will be completed in either mid or late August. Sandblasting cost \$4,050 and the artists \$2,000. The going forward cost will be \$2,000 annually as sandblasting will not have to be repeated. The new format is to have half the mural redone each year to retain freshness and create ongoing interest. We have signed up Renewal Sponsors in the same format as our Trail Sponsors. They will get recognition at the mural via an information box that displays in addition to background on the mural their names. The Sponsorships will be renewed each spring for an amount on or about \$150 depending on the sponsors commitment. I will send out renewal notices each January. Total commitments to date are \$1,900. In addition the Vernon Arts Commission has agreed to reimburse us for \$500 of the \$2,000 we outlayed to the artists. We expect to receive the \$500 within the next month and hope it will be an annual event. Note for sand blasting to take off the silicone that was initially applied and was not removed when sandblasting was done last year. We hope to get a \$500 recurring donation from the Vernon Arts Council to add to the \$1,900 we already have in house.