



# 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  
October 6, 2021  
Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw, Sai Kapu – Boy Scout

### **I. Call to Order**

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

### **II. Citizens' Forum**

Boy Scout Sai Kapu was in attendance at the meeting for his Merit Badge for Citizenship in the Community.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. September 1, 2021**

It was noted that the ramp was ordered by Ann McLaughlin, not Linda Anderson.

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AS CORRECTED.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Youth of the Future Gardens at Batz**

The group has postponed all work until the spring, due to a lack of daylight time and workers.

#### **B. Amphitheater Ribbon Cutting**

This event was also postponed to the spring due to rain and a lack of daylight hours. Two plaques were installed at Batz in September; one is dedicated to Valerie Amsel for her hard work in designing and building the Frog Pond platform, and the other is a dedication to the Opening Knight Players for the Amphitheater Stage.

### C. Amphitheater Ramp

The ramp arrived from Amazon and it looks great. The Committee will need to open it up and see how it gets put together.

### D. Crosstown Trail

The Committee will begin seeking interested individuals to work on making this trail happen, by securing appropriate approvals and grant funding. Information will be passed out at Ellington Historical Society's Fall Festival, placed on the Committee's Facebook page, through the Town newsletter, and through a flyer at Hall Memorial Library. Information will also be distributed to local bike shops.

### E. Fall Festival at Historical Society

The Committee will have a table at this event on October 16 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. 110 craft kits of turkey ornaments were made by Judi Manfre, Ann McLaughlin, Linda Anderson and Deanna Wambolt-Gulick to be handed out. Ms. Wambolt-Gulick made a flyer describing how to use the SEEK app, which members will demonstrate to the public. There will also be a map of Batz and an invitation to help with the Crosstown Trail. Ms. Manfre will work the entire event; Ms. Wambolt-Gulick and Ms. van Zelm will work 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and Ms. McLaughlin will work from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

### F. Emergency Sign Updates

Tom Palshaw presented the Committee with the completed maps with the emergency sign locations that he and Ms. McCormick installed on Windermere, Batz, West Road and Franklin. Data sheets with information on what the signs were attached to, nearest access points and approximate distances were also provided. Ms. Amsel asked about the lack of a #4 emergency sign on Franklin; Mr. Palshaw responded that it was decided that it wasn't needed since the trail is so close to Windermere Village.

This information will be turned over to the Emergency Services Committee for final approval and then distributed to Emergency Dispatch in Tolland, as well as given to the Emergency Services Agencies in Town to keep in all of their vehicles. The Committee will be making informative signs for each of the kiosks explaining how to use the signs in case of emergency. Tom and Pam will be walking Kimball once there is a frost to install those signs. The Committee decided that the Metcalf signs will need to wait until the tree problem has been taken care of.

At this point, Sai Kapu asked the Committee what this tree problem was. It was explained that Metcalf has a large amount of dead trees lining the trails, which need to be removed; however, there are limitations of what equipment the members are allowed to operate. Public Works could operate the appropriate power equipment necessary, but it's too large a job at this time; they will be contracting out to Mountain Tree Service to handle the tree cutting.

**MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE EMERGENCY LOCATION SIGNS FOR TOWN HIKING TRAILS.**

Ms. van Zelm and the other Committee members thanked Mr. Palshaw for all of his time and hard work in developing this plan, as well as thanked Ms. McCormick for giving her time to help with the installations.

## **V. Hockanum River Association Report**

There was no report given at this time.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Possible Meeting Time Change**

MOVED (MCLAUGHLIN), SECONDED (MANFRE) AND PASSED [7 AYE, 1 NAY] TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIME TO 6:30 PM MOVING FORWARD.

### **B. Secretary**

Ms. Wambolt-Gulick volunteered to serve at the Trails Committee Secretary.

### **C. Bobcat Talk**

This event will be held with the Ellington Senior Center on November 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the Senior Center. Pre-registration is required. The speaker will be Ginny Apple, a DEEP Master who has been involved with the recent DEEP bobcat studies. If possible, Ginny will be secured for a second talk at Hall Memorial Library in the evening.

### **D. Winterfest – Pinney Park**

The Committee discussed trying to hold a Winterfest this year if there is enough snow. They would like to hold this event at Pinney Street, since the parking lot would be easy to plow, the field is large enough to handle the snow activities and it has a connecting trail to Windermere. They will contact Hall Memorial Library and the Recreation Department to see if they would like to be involved, and Public Works will be contacted about the plowing.

The event would last no more than a couple of hours, pre-registration only, and have two dates, one in January and one in February; these dates will be based around school vacations. Hopefully, there will be snow on the ground for the events. A snowshoe/cross country ski demonstration could be included; someone will contact LL Bean to see if they would be interested in participating along with the Recreation Department. Other activities could include a talk on winter birds, a talk on wildlife tracking, and families could build snow cakes decorated with food for birds and wildlife.

## **VII. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Treasurer**

Ann McLaughlin reported that there is \$7,152.36 remaining in the budget.

### **B. Planning & Development**

Ms. Anderson has set a date of November 26 (rain date November 27) at 10:00 am for Committee members to walk Crystal Lake with Rachel Dearborn; this will give all Committee members a chance to see the property and Rachel will be able to GPS the property so the Committee can move forward in January and February to get necessary board approvals to

establish and improve existing hiking trails on the property in the spring. Buying a wildlife cam for Kimball was also discussed.

#### C. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel reported that she, along with Bruce Dinnie, Judi Manfre and Linda Anderson, worked on clearing and raking Metcalf; it's not totally done, but they hope to get back out to finish up. Ms. Amsel also reported that the bridge at Kimball still needs to be put back in place, but there has been too much rain. The trail may need to be re-routed because when there is heavy rain it comes down the trail toward the area of the washed-out bridge; if the water can be re-routed back into the brook, that would be helpful. Hopefully, November sees some drier weather.

#### D. Community Outreach

The November Town Newsletter will have pictures of the Fall Festival, an announcement for the Bobcat Talk, pictures of the Batz Frog Pond plaque dedication to Valerie Amsel, plaque dedication of the Batz Stage to the Opening Knight Players and an announcement looking for bikers interested in helping with the Crosstown Trail.

### VIII. Adjournment

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:15 PM.

Submitted by

  
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Julia Connor