



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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**CHAIRMAN**  
LINDA ANDERSON

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

**SECRETARY**  
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

VALERIE AMSEL  
PAM MCCORMICK  
JUDI MANFRE  
ANN MCLAUGHLIN  
KEN RADZIWON

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2022  
Town Hall Annex

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Ken Radziwon

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Larrissa Burke

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

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm; she introduced Larrissa Burke as a new member of the Committee pending appointment by the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

**II. Citizens' Forum:** There was no one present for the Citizens' Forum.

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

#### **A. November 3, 2021**

Ms. Anderson noted that under Subcommittee Reports, C. Maintenance, the following corrections should be made: Ms. Anderson reported that the Committee has cleaned and stored signs *at Batz*. It was noted that a bench was stolen *from Batz*.

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AS CORRECTED.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Emergency Sign Update for Kimball**

##### **1. Connection to Hopkins**

Ms. McCormick said the emergency signs are ready for Kimball but just need to be put out on the trail.

As follow-up to the discussion at the November 3, 2021 meeting, Ms. Anderson suggested that a sign be put in place to allow for Town emergency personnel to know the location of the second entrance to Kimball, to provide for directions as to the parking location, and to provide direction for where the trail starts from this second entrance. Ms. Amsel said she has emergency signs for Balanced Boulder Trail and will put them up at some point.

#### **B. Hockanum River Association Report**

Tom Palshaw was not in attendance so there was no report.

#### **C. New Maps Update**

Ms. van Zelm said a plan to develop the new map of the trails was sent to Mr. Radziwon. He will work on a map in the new year.

#### **D. Fun in the Snow Update**

Ms. Anderson said she was hesitant to schedule the Fun in the Snow event with the omicron variant so prevalent. The Fun in the Snow event was to be a joint event with Hall Memorial Library and include snowshoeing, bird “cake,” and animal tracking. The Committee agreed that it made sense to postpone the event to next year. Ms. Anderson will convey this to the Library.

#### **E. Crosstown Bike Trail Update**

Ms. Anderson said she reached out to people who had indicated interest in helping with the crosstown bike trail, but she has not heard back from them. Names were garnered by the Trails Committee Facebook page, information on the flyer that was posted in the town newsletter, and from the Ellington Historical Society Harvest Festival.

Ms. McCormick agreed to set up a meeting with the folks who expressed interest. Ms. Anderson said she would like to get ten people to serve on the ad hoc committee. She reiterated that the Trails Committee would be involved but the Town of Ellington has the lead. Ms. Anderson said the Town will work closely with East Windsor and also bring in the Town of Somers; she also noted that money will need to be raised to hire someone to do a plan.

### **V. New Business**

#### **A. Crystal Ridge Update**

Ms. Anderson said several Committee members hiked the planned Crystal Ridge trail over the Thanksgiving holiday to lay out the parameters for the new trail. Rachel Dearborn prepared a map of the proposed trail using GPS, and the maps were shared with the Committee.

Ms. Anderson said she spoke with Town Planner Lisa Houlihan who said it was not necessary to receive Planning and Zoning Commission or Conservation Commission approval. Ms. Anderson spoke to John Colonese, Ellington’s Zoning and Wetlands Officer, and he said Inland Wetlands Agency review was not needed unless the Committee would like to do a bridge over the main brook as it is located in wetlands. This will be a future project of the Committee, but the focus is on a bridge near run-off from one of the hills that is not in wetlands.

Ms. Anderson said the Committee has permission from the Inland Wetlands Agency, the Conservation Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Commission to work on the trail. Ms.

Anderson will ask to be added to a BOS meeting in February or March to update them on plans for the Crystal Lake trail and to get their approval to move ahead with working on the trail. The goal is to blaze the trail in April or May.

Ms. Anderson said Tom Palshaw took the Hockanum River Association folks out on the trail and they noted a lot of quartz which would be great for a geology walk. She also left a message with Troop 96 to see if they want to assist with the new trail.

Ms. Amsel added a new item under New Business. She said the Northern CT Land Trust team would like to do a hike at Balanced Boulder Trail, hosted with the Ellington Trails Committee. Ms. Anderson thought it was a great idea and asked Ms. Amsel to get a date from the Northern CT Land Trust team.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Treasurer**

#### **1. 2022 Budget**

Ms. McLaughlin said there were no new expenses since the last meeting. She does need an invoice for the emergency signs. Ms. Anderson said she was not sure this was a Trails Committee cost.

Ms. McLaughlin will reach out to the Ellington Finance Department on next year's budget proposal if she does not hear from them. The Finance Department is asking that all departments and committees utilize zero based budgeting.

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

Ms. Anderson said the main focus is on the new Crystal Ridge Trail. She wants to go through old minutes to evaluate what projects are still pending that the Committee may want to pursue.

### **C. Maintenance**

#### **1. Windermere Trail Repairs and Estimated Cost**

Ms. Amsel shared pictures of the maintenance needs at the Windermere Trail.

With respect to photo 1, she said the Hockanum River Association folks would like that bridge leveled and a post put in place. There is a company Ms. Amsel has worked with in the past that could oversee this project. She estimates a \$125 cost. Ms. Amsel will get Ms. McLaughlin the name of the company so it can be approved as a Town vendor. Ms. Amsel said there is a railing that should be fixed as well.

With respect to photo 2, Ms. Amsel said it would cost approximately \$100 to fix a railing at that bridge.

With respect to photo 3, Ms. Amsel said a few boards need to be replaced and some areas need to be filled in. She estimated a \$50 cost.

With respect to photo 4, Mr. Palshaw suggested raising the bridge six inches. Ms. Amsel thinks this can be accomplished by placing a six-by-six board underneath the bridge. Mr. Palshaw also thought that the bridge needs to be extended about six feet. This would be about a \$120 to \$150

cost. Ms. Amsel said she thought the six foot sections could be replaced by treks that are at the Town. This would reduce the cost.

Ms. McCormick suggested using the emergency sign maps to help identify where the maintenance needs to be done.

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that there is a tree leaning over the trail at Batz.

## 2. Kimball Bridge

Ms. Amsel said the bridge at Kimball was put back in place by someone, but the stairs moved downstream. Rachel Dearborn had indicated she could get some people to help move the stairs. Ms. Anderson will follow-up with Ms. Dearborn. Ms. Amsel said the other bridge at Kimball is not stable. Ms. van Zelm asked how this year's money will be expended.

Ms. Anderson and Mr. Dinnie said wood can be bought and stockpiled for the bridge at Crystal Lake.

Ms. Anderson said other needs include mulch, signs from Ellington Printery, printing of maps, replacing plants at Batz, and batteries for the leaf blower.

## D. Community Outreach

### 1. Ginny Apple's Next Talk

Ms. Anderson said the Senior Center has curtailed most programs but as of today Ginny Apple's talk on eagles is still planned for January 19.

Library Director Susan Phillips would like to see if Ms. Apple could hold a few of her programs in the afternoon and then in the evening to accommodate people who work during the day. Ms. Anderson said the goal would be to do this in March/April. Ms. Anderson said Ms. Apple's talk on fishers was very good. She would like to do a hike/talk about geology with children at Batz.

Ms. van Zelm will reach out to the person who was to do the bird watch hike last year to see if she is interested in a hike this year.

Ms. Anderson said former Trails Committee member Lauren Desrocher had mentioned having a Native American tribe representative show and talk about a tribal house and provide information about Native American culture. This could include learning about native plants and animals. An event at Batz on a Saturday may work well. Ms. Anderson will reach out to the astronomy group that held an event at Windermere in August 2019.

### 2. Drone

Ms. van Zelm will follow-up with the contact that expressed interest in providing drone photography of the Ellington trails.

## VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:05 PM.

Prepared by Cynthia van Zelm, Vice Chairman; submitted by

  
Julia Connor