



# 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

**SECRETARY**  
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

VALERIE AMSEL  
PAM MCCORMICK  
JUDI MANFRE  
ANN MCLAUGHLIN  
KEN RADZIWON  
LARRISSA BURKE

Ad Hoc Ellington  
Trails Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 2022  
Town Hall Annex

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Radziwon

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

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

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She reintroduced Larrissa Burke, a new member of the Committee.

**II. Citizens' Forum:** No citizens wished to be heard.

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

**A.** January 5, 2022

MOVED (MANFRE), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED.

### **IV. Old Business**

- A.** New Maps Update: There was no new information to share at this time.
- B.** Hockanum River Association Report: Mr. Palshaw was not present to share a report at this time.
- C.** Crosstown Bike Trail Update

Ms. Anderson shared that South Windsor is encountering difficulties with their crosstown bike trail plans. This difficulty has been attributed to some changes in the management of Eversource,

lessening the consistency in the contact person for this project. They are still working towards the trail.

#### **D. Crystal Ridge Update**

Ms. Anderson reminded the Committee that the plans for creating a Crystal Ridge trail will come before the Board of Selectmen on February 14th. She also mentioned that there is an Eagle Scout, Mr. Zachary McTighe, interested in helping with the project. His help could include the bridge, a kiosk, and benches.

Ms. Amsel asked if Mr. McTighe would generate his own designs for these items, or if the Committee would need to create them. Ms. Anderson said that Mr. McTighe would be creating the plans, though the Committee would be available to offer support. Ms. Amsel also asked if Mr. McTighe would be generating funds for items he created. Ms. Anderson confirmed that he would be responsible for fundraising, but that the Committee could contribute as well.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Conservation Commission Report – Val Amsel**

Ms. Amsel provided the Committee with an update from the Conservation Commission. She shared that they went over various parcels of land to evaluate if there was interest in purchasing them. Ms. Anderson stated that all would have the potential for trails.

Ms. Amsel said that there are eight parcels that are being evaluated, but clarified that this is all very preliminary. Ms. Anderson added that the Conservation Commission is looking at parcels that aren't developed and are unlikely to be developed in the future. Most parcels being evaluated are privately owned, so the process could take a while if the Conservation Commission decided to move forward on any. Ms. Anderson added that there is more information available in the Conservation Commission minutes about the parcels being considered

Ms. Amsel shared that the Committee was asked about the Stein/Moser property, which is a property which has been held for two years due to consideration as a site for disc golf. The Conservation Commission would like to see trails added, and has voted against using it as a site for disc golf. There appears to be low interest in developing the property for disc golf at this time, due to the slow progress of this project. If there is interest in this project in the future, there are other parcels available, ones which would likely be more suitable.

Mr. Dinnie asked about the Wildlife Conservation stance on adding disc golf to the property. Ms. Amsel and Ms. Anderson confirmed that the wildlife of the area is not conducive to disc golf. Ms. van Zelm asked about the parking impact for adding trails versus adding disc golf. Ms. Anderson said the parking impact for trails would be minimal. The Committee wouldn't need to add more than the current space available, whereas there would likely be a higher impact if adding disc golf to the site.

A motion was made to support the development of trails on the Stein/Moser property, and the Committee will take the lead in developing the property. It is the Committee's opinion that this is the best way to protect wildlife and limit impact to the neighborhood.

MOVED (VAN ZELM) SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE ABOVE STATEMENT.

#### B. Stein/Moser

Ms. Anderson shared an update on the Stein/Moser property. She stated that she would like to get the Committee out to see the property. Ms. Amsel asked if there are trails on the property. Mr. Dinnie confirmed that there are trails on the property that would just require some cleaning and further establishing. Ms. Anderson asked if there would be bridges required. Mr. Dinnie confirmed that there would need to be bridges made, but that it would be an affordable project with many available materials already. Mr. Dinnie also added that there are some individuals in the nearby neighborhood that would likely help the Committee with its development of the existing trails. Ms. Amsel requested that any trail plans be formalized with the Conservation Commission.

#### C. Subcommittee Assignments

Ms. Anderson suggested that, with some new members, the subcommittee assignments should be updated and confirmed. The Committee would like to commend its members on their current work in serving on these subcommittees.

The following were suggested, pending approval from all members.

- Treasury: Ms. McLaughlin
- Planning & Development: Ms. Anderson
- Maintenance: Ms. Amsel, Ms. Manfre, Ms. McCormick, Ms. McLaughlin
- Community Outreach: Ms. van Zelm, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Wambolt-Gulick, Mr. Radziwon

#### D. Calendar of Events

Ms. Anderson led the Committee in going over the calendar of events for the upcoming year, to consider any necessary changes, answer questions, and clarify as needed.

The Calendar was updated to reflect that the Birdwatch Walk will take place on April 30, not the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee clarified a few items on the calendar, to include the expected scope of work. Clarifications included cabling and staking the bridge in place at the Kimball Trail, weather-permitting between March and May, and addressing some bridge issues at Windermere Trail in May.

#### E. Projects/Goals

Ms. Anderson commended the Committee on the work that has been accomplished. Ms. Amsel echoed this sentiment. Ms. Anderson led the Committee through the Project/Goal list for the upcoming year, answering questions and clarifying items as needed.

Ms. Amsel asked if the Committee should speak to the Town about Item 6 on the list, Wire Fencing to Control Litter at Kimball that comes down from Route 140). Ms. Anderson will confirm.

Ms. van Zelm asked about creating raised beds at Batz. Ms. Anderson said that if the interest returns, that project can move forward. Ms. Anderson also noted that the Committee has five remaining properties to look at and develop. These properties have been held for a while.

Ms. Anderson also added that members of the Committee are working to put up emergency signage at Kimball Trail.

#### F. Wildlife Cams for Kimball/Batz

Ms. Anderson shared that she has looked into wildlife cams and have found that they are affordable, noting that they are something the Committee has always wanted to add. Ms. Amsel voiced a concern about the amount of maintenance required for the cams. Ms. Anderson said that the maintenance is minimal, and would be great for outreach programs and outreach pages.

### VI. Subcommittee Reports

#### A. Treasurer

##### 1. Budget Report

Ms. McLaughlin shared a budget report with the Committee, noting total expenses and total budget/revenue. She noted that there is currently \$5,872.89 remaining in the Trails account.

#### B. Planning & Development

Ms. Anderson reiterated that the current scope of Planning & Development will be focused on developing the Crystal Ridge Trail and the Stein/Moser Property.

#### C. Maintenance

Ms. Anderson reviewed the maintenance goals, which were outlined and discussed under Projects/Goals.

#### D. Community Outreach

##### 1. Ginny Apple's Talks

Ms. Anderson shared that she is working to set up more of these events going forward.

##### 2. Drone

Ms. van Zelm shared that she is looking into using drones to map the trails and take photos/videos, at no cost to the Committee. Mr. Dinnie clarified what these would be used for. Ms. Anderson discussed their usefulness on websites and in creating new maps.

### VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:39 PM.

Prepared by Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Secretary; submitted by

  
Julia Connor