



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 – January 26, 2023

Present: Members: George Arthur, Don Bellingham, Ann Letendre;
Staff advisor: Marty Sitler, Director, Parks & Rec

Call to Order: 9:40 am by Ann Letendre, Acting Chairman

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2022 and the special meeting of November 17, 2022 were approved; motion by George, second by Don.

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

Sites noted as needing actions are same as those cited at the September meeting.

C. Current HRLP Trail Development / Current Grant Projects – Status

1. New Planned Trail Sections

Dart Hill South Trail Loop on east side of river at Trail run

– No new activity

Pleasantview to Golfland – No new activity; trail has been cleared to Kelly Rd by Vernon Greenway Volunteers

2. Railing on Dave Smith bridge access berm

Marty reported that a fence company visited the site and measured for the rail; he expects it will be installed early spring. It will be a black round 1 3/8" rail, installed on the top of the stone posts.

3. Saxony Park Improvements – No new activity. Ann reiterated suggested improvements (interpretive sign for big tree; signs for trail).

4. Trail census – no new activity

D. Future HRLP Trail Development / New Grant applications

1. Marty reported that the DEEP Rec Trails Program (RTP) grant was signed Dec 20th, 2022. He noted he can't do any of the work until the fall since his staff is tied up with existing work. Grant award is \$160,000 with \$40,000 match, end date is Dec '24.

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2. Ann and Marty reported on the 2023 RTP grant being submitted by the Hop River Trails Alliance (HRTA) for signage for the trail in the nine towns on the Hop River Trail (part of the Rail Trail in Vernon). The grant request is \$100,000. The Vernon Greenways Volunteers prepared a letter of support for the application.

- E. River Protection: Action, Public Education - No Action
- F. Other HRLP items: Complete Streets – Marty reported that a meeting was planned for that afternoon.

3. New Business

A. Future of VGV and Friends HRLP, Inc.

Don and Ann reported that the name change of the Friends organization to the Vernon Greenway Volunteers, Inc. (VGV) has been completed. VGV takes on the same Articles of Incorporation, Inc. and 501(c)3 status of the Friends. Needed filings with the Secretary of State office and the IRS have been completed, a Board of Directors has been elected, and new bylaws have been adopted by the Board.

B. Transfer of 686 Dart Hill Rd from Friends to Town of Vernon

Ann and Marty reported that Mark Leighton and he had met with Administration, and the matter is in progress

4. Adjournment

Ann reported that the next meeting date is March 23rd. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am, motion by Don, second by George, approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Detendre, Acting Chairman



Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report November 17, 2022 – January 26, 2023

No field activity. The Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park, Inc. has changed its name to the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, and therefore is now a 501(c)3. Filings have been made with Secretary of State and IRS. A new Board of Directors has been elected.

Reported by Don Bellingham