



## TOWN OF VERNON

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

*Approved*  
**Town of Vernon**  
**Hockanum River Linear Park Committee**

Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2022

**Present:** Members: George Arthur, Don Bellingham, Ann Letendre;  
Staff advisor: Amy Watt, Assistant Director, Parks & Rec, for M. Sitler

Call to Order: 9:35 am by Ann Letendre, Acting Chairman

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2021 and the special meeting of January 7, 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.  
Don noted that the major item involves future leadership of the VGV and possibility of merging with the non-profit Friends of the HRLP, Inc.

#### B. Review of trail needs at HRLP sites

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

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

##### 1. New Planned Trail Sections

Dart Hill South Trail Loop – 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

Ann reported that four stone posts are in place and that Public Works Director, Dwight R, is looking for a welder to make the connecting rail. Amy will follow up with PW on status.

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

#### D. New Grant Applications

1. Amy W reported that notice of award was received last spring for the P&R application to CT DEEP Recreational Trail Program (RTP). Contract status is uncertain, Amy will look into it.

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- E. River Protection: Action, Public Education - No Action
- F. Other HRLP items: none

### **3. New Business**

#### **A. Future of VGV and Friends HRLP, Inc.**

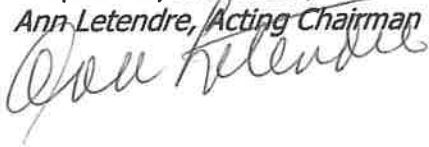
Don and Ann reported on the merger of the two organizations. Best pathway is for the Friends of HRLP, Inc. to rename itself as the Vernon Greenway Volunteers, Inc, thereby taking on the leadership structure of a regular non-profit with a Board of Directors, etc. Don organized a team of four people (Don B, Mark Leighton, Walt Smith and Ann L) to work out the details.

### **4. Adjournment**

Ann noted that the next meeting date will need to be changed to Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, since Town offices are now closed on Fridays. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am, motion by Don, second by George, approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ann Letendre, Acting Chairman*



## **Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report November 20, 2021 to September 23, 2022**

### **Work Parties in 2022**

Our off season ran from Nov 2021 to April 24, 2022. Starting on April 24, 2021 thru June 7 2022 the Planting Spring Cleaning of our 12 plantings took place. From June 14 to Sept 14 2022, 13 Trail Maintenance Team outings produced 142 volunteer hours. From July 20 to September 10 the Trail Blazing Team had 6 outings and produced 49 volunteer hours.

### **Future of FVF and Friends of HRLP Committee**

Ann and I are looking into moving the 501(c) 3 and reporting responsibilities from the Friends of the HRLP, Inc to the Vernon Greenways Volunteers since the current leadership of the Friends has dwindled. The Friends organization would be discontinued. I am currently putting together a list of my duties and identifying members that might be appropriate for a leadership team or board of directors. It, also, would guarantee the ongoing continuation of the VGVs should I not be available in the future.

*Reported by Don Bellingham*