



## 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**

Special Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2023

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

Call to Order: 1:10 pm by Ann Letendre, Acting Chairman

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was waived until the next regular meeting.

### 2. New Business

#### A. Review of existing trail conditions and 2023 needs

Refer to Vernon Greenways Report. Work needed at the Dart Hill Trail discussed. No other issues cited at this point, but Don noted Trail Managers have not yet been out to review. Marty and Don discussed work to be covered by the Recreational Trails Grant and matching work by PW Department, P&R staff and VGVolunteers.

#### B. Hockanum River Trails – Update on potential new trails and grant funding sources

1. P&R Grant Award, Rec Trails Program – Contract signed, as noted at last meeting. Planning the project schedule is in question since Marty doesn't anticipate his staff being able to work on the project until the fall given other priorities. The advantages of the non-profit Vernon Greenway Volunteers obtaining grants funding was discussed.
2. Hop River Alliance, Rec Trails Program – no word as yet from DEEP regarding awards on submitted grants

#### C. Update on Vernon Greenways Volunteers, Inc. organization status

Don reported that the new organization is coming together, just a few bumps here and there. A Board of Directors has been appointed, and the committees are starting to work together. Discussion took place on continuing need for the HRLP Committee. Members present agreed that the original purpose Committee, to develop the trails identified on the HRLP Master Plan of 1991, had been accomplished. Ann noted, and Committee agreed, that the role of the HRLP Committee in trail maintenance is taken up by the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, and it made sense that the partnership with Parks & Rec and the Vernon Greenways Volunteers rather than the HRLP should continue into the future. Marty noted the importance of the VGV to the viability of the trails, and the significant cost and labor savings that the volunteers provide. Ann will contact Administration to see what action, if any, may be needed by the Committee. She noted that the formation of the Committee was by Council resolution, and there isn't an ordinance related to the Committee. The May HRLP Committee meeting will be canceled.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ann Letendre, Acting Chairman*

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
23 MAR 20 AM 8:44

**Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report**  
**January 27, 2023 – March 13, 2023**

January 31 - Tour DHS w Marty and Walt to see were we might use a grant we are requesting.

February 9<sup>th</sup> - Walt Smith and I toured DHS with President of VMS Construction Vic Serrambana from 0.7 mile marker to the 1.2 mile marker to develop a cost for paving asphalt where necessary and use either existing grant money or ask for a new grant.

February 16 Board of Directors Meeting at 375 Center Road Room B – Treasurer's Report for Lisa Ouellette. Discussed this year's Spring Kickoff Meeting. Ann discussed grants. New direction discussed in funding the mural, conveyance of 686 Dart Hill Road discussed and Ann became an Ex-Officio member of the Board.

February 21<sup>st</sup>- Third Thursday in May was approved as the date of our annual Spring Kickoff Meeting. It will be held at Camp Newhoca Ron Hardy will be the guest speaker and focus on Eastern Coyotes.

March 1<sup>st</sup> Walt Mark and I met with John Bolduc from the Hop River Trail Alliance to discuss our respective organizations, what we do and how we might be able to interact.

*Reported by Don Bellingham*