



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

## TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

Tel. 860-870-3120 Town Planner's Office Fax. 860-870-3122

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

**IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**  
**REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING, INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER:

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):

#### III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Review Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4 - Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation & Identify Considerations/Strategies for Action. (*Distributed January 10, 2023*)
  - a. Develop strategies for raising awareness about open space and farmland preservation efforts and benefits.
2. Pursuant to action by the Board of Selectmen (May 8, 2023) to establish the Ellington Sustainability Team, review conservation sections from the 2023 Sustainable Connecticut Certification Action Overview Worksheet
  - a. 3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan
  - b. 3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
  - c. 3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage
  - d. 5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practice
  - e. 5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources
3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program.
4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update.
  - a. Memo to Finance Department (dated June 29, 2023) for disbursements from Dues & Subscriptions for FY22/23.
2. Approval of the May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.
3. Correspondence/Discussion:
  - b. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly Agendas/Minutes.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT:

*The next regular meeting is August 8, 2023.*

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Instructions to attend remotely via Zoom Meeting listed below. The agenda is posted on the Town of Ellington webpage ([www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)) under Agenda & Minutes, Conservation Commission.

#### Join Zoom Meeting via link:

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86422389103>

Meeting ID: 864 2238 9103

Passcode: 509503

#### Join Zoom Meeting by phone:

1-646-558-8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 864 2238 9103

Passcode: 509503

COMMISSIONERS: TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QUORUMS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A SCHEDULED MEETING.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE TOWN'S USE OF TOWN PROPERTY POLICY, AND FOR THE EVFD TO REVIEW AND ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN SAID POLICY THROUGHOUT THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL.

FURTHER, TO DIRECT THE EVFD TO CONSULT WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR REGARDING THE DETAILS OF THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EVENT.

#### F. Sustainable CT Status

Tom Modzelewski shared that Ellington has been a spotlight Town with the Connecticut Green Snow Pro program. He stated that the Town's successes were used to pursue the Sustainable CT board to provide points to Towns that receive Green Sno Pro certification towards their Sustainable CT status.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESUME ACTIVITY OF THE SUSTAINABLE CT TOWN OF ELLINGTON SUSTAINABILITY TEAM TO BE CO-CHAIRLED BY LISA HOULIHAN, TOWN PLANNER AND TOM MODZELEWSKI, SUPERINTENDENT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECEIVING SUSTAINABLE CT CERTIFICATION. UPON THEIR DISCRETION, IDENTIFIED TOWN DEPARTMENT HEADS AND STAFF WILL PARTICIPATE AS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS THAT WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF CERTIFICATION PROVIDING UPDATES TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON A BI-MONTHLY BASIS.

- G. To consider and act on a resolution: (1) recommending an authorization for the Permanent Building Committee for the previously approved acquisition of, installation of and improvements to lighting at various athletic facilities of the Town; and (2) setting a Town Meeting to consider and act upon the resolution

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MADRU) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends to the Town Meeting that the Town of Ellington authorize the Permanent Building Committee to determine the scope and particulars for the previously approved acquisition of, installation of and improvements to lighting at various athletic facilities of the Town, including Ellington High School, Tedford Park and Pinney Street Fields, and to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and obtain grants to finance the appropriation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the First Selectman to call a special town meeting to be held in the Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut, on June 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to consider and act upon said resolution.

#### H. Resignation of Kenneth Radziwon, DPW Director/WPCA Administrator

Mr. Turner read the letter provided by Mr. Radziwon to First Selectman Spielman stating that he apologized for not being able to attend the meeting, as he was currently coaching his children's soccer teams. He noted that his departure is centric around being the best father and husband he can

Town of Ellington

General Ledger - On Demand Report

Fiscal Year: 2022-2023 From Date: 7/1/2022 To Date: 6/30/2023

Account Mask: ?????00270???????

Account Type: All

Print accounts with zero balance

Include Inactive Accounts

Print Detail

Include PreEncumbrance

Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

Balance Encumbrance % Remaining Bud

Account Number / Description	Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	% Remaining Bud
1000.02.00270.10.50103	\$1,600.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,040.00	\$560.00	\$0.00	\$560.00 35.00%
Part Time---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60221	\$400.00	(\$213.00)	(\$213.00)	\$613.00	\$0.00	\$613.00 153.25%
Advertising Printing---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60222	\$1,350.00	\$560.00	\$560.00	\$790.00	\$0.00	\$790.00 58.52%
Dues & Subscriptions---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60223	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
Travel---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60234	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
Professional Development---Conservation Commission						
1000.02.00270.20.60250	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
Contracted Services---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60254	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
St of CT Surcharges---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.20.60341	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
Office Supplies---Conservation Commission--						
1000.02.00270.30.60341	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 0.00%
Office Supplies---Conservation Commission--						
Fund: 1000	\$3,350.00	\$1,387.00	\$1,387.00	\$1,963.00	\$0.00	\$1,963.00

**Town of Ellington**

**General Ledger - On Demand Report**

Fiscal Year: 2022-2023 From Date: 7/1/2022 To Date: 6/30/2023

Account Mask: ?????00270???????

- Print accounts with zero balance
- Include Inactive Accounts
- Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range
- Print Detail
- Include PreEncumbrance

Account Number / Description	Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	% Remaining Bud
<b>Grand Total:</b>	\$3,350.00	\$1,387.00	\$1,387.00	\$1,963.00	\$0.00	\$1,963.00

End of Report

# Town of Ellington Planning Department

55 Main ST., PO Box 187, Ellington, CT, 06029/Phone: 860-870-3120/Fax: 860-870-3122/lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov



## MEMO

DATE: June 29, 2023  
TO: Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer  
FROM: Lisa M. Houlihan, AICP, Town Planner  
SUBJECT: Request to issue \$750 from account 270-20-60222, Dues and Subscriptions, for FY22/23.

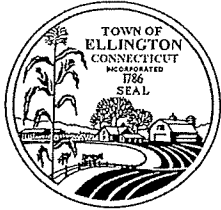
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This memo is sent on behalf of the Ellington Conservation Commission and approved funding for FY22/23. Please issue a check in the amount of \$500 to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust and a check in the amount of \$250 to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council from account 270-20-60222, Dues & Subscriptions, for the current fiscal year. Enclosed is a copy of the approved budget information sheet for account 270.

If any additional information is needed, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

TOWN OF ELLINGTON  
BUDGET REQUEST  
270 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Object No.	Description & Explanation(s)	FISCAL YEAR 2022-23	
		<u>FY 2021-22</u> <u>Revised</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>
50103	<u>PART TIME PAYROLL</u> Recording Clerk for montly meetings (12 x \$130)	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,600
	2020-21	\$ 780	
	2019-20	\$ 650	
	2018-19	\$ 1,250	
	2017-18	\$ 750	
	4 Year Average	<u>\$ 858</u>	
		<u>\$ 1,300</u>	<u>\$ 1,600</u>
60221	<u>ADVERTISING-PRINTING-FORMS</u> Brochures (open space, conservation & farmland preservation), commissioner name plates, conservation event supplies, and surveys		\$ 400
60222	<u>DUES &amp; SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> CT Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions (\$60) & CT Land Conservation Council (\$750), Northern CT Land Trust (\$500)		\$ 1,350
60223	<u>TRAVEL</u> N/A		\$ -
60234	<u>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</u> Seminars for commission members		\$ -
60250	<u>CONTRACTED SERVICES</u>		\$ -
60254	<u>STATE OF CT SURCHARGES</u> N/A		\$ -
60341	<u>OFFICE SUPPLIES</u> N/A		\$ -
	TOTAL OFFICE BUDGET		<u>\$ 1,750</u>
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL		<u>\$ 3,350</u>



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Tel. 860-870-3120 Town Planner's Office Fax. 860-870-3122

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

- PRESENT:** In-Person: Chairman Rebecca Quarno and Alternate Ann Harford  
Remote Attendance: Regular Members George Nickerson and James Gage
- ABSENT:** Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members Robert Zielfelder, Sean Dwyer and Laurie Burstein, and Alternate Jessica Fay
- STAFF:** Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk
- OTHERS**  
**PRESENT:** None

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):** None

### III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Review Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4 - Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation & Identify Considerations/Strategies for Action. (*Distributed January 10, 2023*)
  - a. Develop strategies for raising awareness about open space and farmland preservation efforts and benefits.

Ms. Houlihan recapped that John Colonese, Assistant Planner Enforcement Officer, sat in for her last month and provided the commission guidance from a report she prepared. She said last month there was some confusion as to why this item was on the agenda. This section is the commission's chapter from the Plan of Conservation and Development, which lists suggested strategies for action by the group. Currently they want to work on strategies for increasing awareness about open space and farmland preservation. Chairman Quarno said it makes sense to leave this section on the agenda as a standing item so the commission can revisit it for action.

In response to the commission's directive to notify the public about the fund for open space purchases, information will be included in the May 2023 newsletter. Ms. Houlihan said the fund currently has \$724,000 in it. Almost \$204,000 of that amount is earmarked for land purchases near Shenipsit State Forest. Chairman Quarno asked if it would be more impactful to the average reader to simply say that the fund had \$724,000 instead of a breakdown of \$520,000 for town-wide land acquisitions and \$204,000 for purchases near Shenipsit State Forest. Ms. Houlihan said this information has already been submitted, but that it could be adjusted the next time it is written. The deadline for submissions to be printed in monthly newsletters is on or about the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the prior month.

To increase awareness about the commission's open space and farmland preservation programs, Chairman Quarno asked about securing a booth at the Farmer's Market for the Conservation Commission. She said if the group can get a booth, then the commission can consider ideas for what to hand out to patrons. Ms. Houlihan will contact the Farmers Market for potential dates for a booth.

2. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program.

a. Farmland Preservation Brochure, Revised April 2023.

Ms. Houlihan said the farmland preservation brochure was revised to include the preservation of Farm 1 from Oakridge Dairy, LLC, which was 101 acres.

b. Open Space/Farmland/Recreational Assets Inventory, Revised April 2023.

This is a page from the Plan of Conservation, which lists that a total amount of 4,456.33 acres of land is preserved in Ellington.

c. May Town Newsletter Article.

An article in the *Journal Inquirer* dated April 11, 2023, detailed the preservation of Farm 1, which is 101 acres, for Oakridge Dairy, LLC. Ms. Houlihan said this process stemmed from a 2016 application where the farm wanted to preserve about 400 acres and was separated into three different farm easements.

The commission voted on preserving Farm 2 from Oakridge Dairy, LLC. last month, which is about 101 acres. Chairman Quarno asked if the remaining process will be long. Ms. Houlihan said it would not because it has been through a lot of the vetting process already and that funding approval is needed to continue. Ms. Houlihan will be looking to present to the Board of Selectmen for funding approval on Monday, May 8 at 6:30PM, if she can meet the deadline otherwise the presentation will be in June.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.

a. May Town Newsletter Article.

The Open Space Preservation Program was referenced in the town newsletter article.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update.

The only expenditure between last month and this month is for recording clerk services. Next month, there will be an expenditure for open space brochures included in the budget.

2. Approval of the April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023, AS WRITTEN.**

3. Executive session for purpose of discussing potential open space real estate acquisitions.

**MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:28PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS INVITING COMMISSION MEMBERS, THE RECORDING CLERK, AND THE TOWN PLANNER.**



**MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:53PM. NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS WERE MADE DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

4. Correspondence/Discussion:

a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly Agendas/Minutes.

According to Commissioner Harford, the bridge on the Hockanum River trail was built and the bench was fixed for the fifth time.

Ms. Houlihan said the Planning Department received withdrawal of the applications for the disc golf proposal on the Stein Road open space parcel from the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Nickerson asked if posting and sharing information about monthly trail walks at the Indian Valley Y.M.C.A would bring more walkers to the town trails. Ms. Houlihan suggested sharing the idea with Valerie Amsel, Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee liaison, at next month's meeting.

b. Northern Connecticut Land Trust Landmark newsletter from March 2023

The Planning Department received a copy of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust Landmark newsletter from March 2023 after the agenda packet was mailed. The newsletter was shared with commission members.

c. Route 140 Intersection improvements notification

The Planning Department received notification from the State of Connecticut regarding the status of intersection improvements at Route 140 and Burbank Road dated April 25, 2023, after the agenda packet was mailed. A copy of the notification was provided to commission members.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (NICKERSON) SECONDED (HARFORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:56 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk



# 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  
LARRISSA BURKE  
DONNA ALLEN

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2023  
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Allen, Valerie Amsel, Linda Anderson, Judi Manfre, Cynthia van Zelm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larrissa Burke, Lindsay Neubecker, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palshaw, Jesse Amsel, Bill Schultz

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

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

### **II. Citizens' Forum**

Ms. Anderson thanked Mr. Amsel and Mr. Schultz for attending; Mr. Schultz was introduced to the Committee and other guests as a prospective new member.

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

#### **A. April 5, 2023**

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MANFRE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Hockanum River Association Report**

Mr. Palshaw shared that the official name of their group has been changed to the Hockanum River Crew. He reported that the ramp on the bridge closest to Sullivan Tire has been rebuilt after it had been damaged by motor bikes. A bench has been replaced at the W4 location; previous benches at that location had been vandalized. The Hockanum River Crew has mowed the trail from the start near The Diamond Exchange to the W9 location at the end of the Town property. They will continue the mowing and Mr. Palshaw has notified Tom Modzelewski at the Department of Public Works of the improvements. Mr. Palshaw brought up the subject of a new carry-in/carry-out policy agreed to by the Conservation Commission. This will be discussed at the next Ad Hoc Trails Committee meeting.

Ms. Anderson reported that she spoke with Lisa Houlihan of the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the property lines on the West Road Trail. Some of the property within the trail is private property. The private property is for sale and has a potential buyer with plans for a tennis and pickleball facility. Approximately 5 acres of the property may be sold to Mr. Hoffman so he can continue to farm that land.

Ms. Anderson will speak with the Planning and Zoning Commission to try to get easements for the portions of the trail that are not Town-owned. Until these matters have been settled, no bridges will be added or improvements made to the West Road Trail.

Ms. Anderson also reported that the Town of Vernon has reached out to discuss the possibility of adding a trail around their new soccer fields, which may include adding a sidewalk from Lower Butcher Road to the fields. If this happens, the Committee may consider extending the West Road Trail to meet up with the Town of Vernon trail.

#### **B. Metcalf Update – Ribbon Cutting/Historical Marker**

Ms. Anderson informed the Committee that she is trying to coordinate with State Representative Foster and First Selectman Spielman to have a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-open the Metcalf Trail on the morning of May 15, 2023, time to be determined. Ms. Lauren Desrocher is doing some research regarding placing a historical marker at the Metcalf trailhead.

Mr. Palshaw has walked the trail while comparing the blazed trail markers with the proposed trail map. He found the map to be accurate. He also reported a concern regarding the entry to the Metcalf Trail. He observed that the entrance is overgrown with brush and there are stumps and ruts that may prohibit emergency vehicles from accessing the trail. Ms. Anderson pointed out that the trail cannot be widened because it closely abuts private property.

Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee get the emergency trail markers and QR codes ready. When the Fire Department approves the locations on the maps, they will be placed on the trail/trees.

Ms. Anderson will check with Trophy Company to be sure the Town of Ellington has an account established so the signs can be ordered.

#### **C. Conservation Commission Report – Mention Trails Day and June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Amsel reported that the Conservation Commission meeting date was changed and she was unable to attend. She handed out Conservation Commission pamphlets at the Earth Day table to notify the public of the work being done by the Commission.

#### **D. Ellington Highlands Update – Disc Golf: Inland/Wetlands – Planning & Zoning**

Ms. Anderson reported that she had emailed pictures to the Trails Committee showing the destruction of the bridge on the Ellington Highlands property. She reported that the application for Disc Golf has been withdrawn at both the Inland Wetlands Agency and Planning and Zoning Commission. She hopes to speak with Mr. Dustin Huguenin to ask if he plans to re-apply. If not, the Committee will make plans to move forward to map the property and rebuild the bridge.

Ms. Anderson thanked all who showed up to the public hearings to support the Trails Committee.

## V. New Business

### A. Batz Mowing Map and Schedule/Signs

Ms. Anderson presented a Three-Year Field Mowing Rotation Plan for the Batz property. Field #1 (the northern edge of property abutting Shenipsit Street) will remain wild. She informed the Public Works Department of two scheduled events (Raptors 7/19 and Foragers 9/23) and they will mow Field #6 near the amphitheater prior to those events.

Ms. Anderson will be posting signs to educate the trail users about the reasons for mowing/not mowing fields.

### B. Parking at Crystal Ridge

Ms. Anderson had spoken with Ken Radziwon about making a curb cut to access parking for the Crystal Ridge Trail. Mr. Radziwon explained that was not likely to happen, nor will parking be allowed on the grass at the trailhead. The reasons were because beachgoers would see it as an opportunity to park for free and walk to the beach. Driving over the curb to park on the grass will be considered destruction of Town property. Street parking for trail use will be allowed.

Ms. Anderson reported that Phase 1 has been completed at Crystal Ridge. The Committee needs someone to create a GPS map so it can be submitted to the GIS mapping company. If someone from the Town is unable to do this, Ms. Anderson will ask Rebecca how much it would cost to have her firm do it.

### C. Windermere Parking

Ms. Anderson had spoken with Mr. Modzelewski about creating additional trailhead parking on Town-owned property on the other side of the street. He has a concern about the safety issue that would be created by adding a crosswalk at that location, due to traffic flow at the light. He presented the idea of closing the parking lot and changing the trailhead to Pinney Street; Public Works could possibly create a stone dust trail from the Pinney Field parking lot to the Trail, which would require keeping a portion of the parking lot plowed in the winter.

Mr. Palshaw reminded the Committee that changes to the property would require new maps.

Ms. Anderson will put further discussion regarding the Windermere Trail on next month's agenda.

### D. Bruce Dinnie

Ms. Anderson reported that Mr. Dinnie will no longer be a consultant to the Ad Hoc Trails Committee.

### E. Eric Thomas, Environmental Analyst, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Connecticut DEEP

Ms. Anderson shared the following email from Mr. Thomas regarding Emergency Trail Markers: "Thank you - initial look is very interesting. I am already touching base with the CT DEEP Recreational Trail staff lead. She has mentioned a pilot at Bluff Point SP/Coastal Reserve with a local scout group. And there is a forthcoming DEEP Recreational Trail grant award to a regional group proposing something similar for consistency signage - and DEEP may be looking at it (and maybe the Ellington experience) for a template for other trail systems across CT. I may be back in touch at some point."

Eric D. Thomas  
Environmental Analyst  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse/Water Planning and Management Division”

#### F. Girl Scout Project at Batz

Ms. Anderson met with the Girl Scout working toward her Gold Star rank. Initially, the Scout wanted to build a tool shed at Batz and a farm stand for gardeners to offer extra produce for the public. Ms. Anderson explained that deer, raccoons and other wildlife would create a problem, requiring daily maintenance. The project will be focused on building a locking tool bin for gardeners to borrow tools they may need. Each subscribed gardener would receive the combination to lock/unlock the bin, which would be located near the water storage tanks.

Ms. Anderson and the scout discussed the potential to decorate the bin with tiles and to plant a pollinator garden. The scout also has interest in making toad houses.

Mr. Palshaw suggested some cover should be made for the water tanks to protect them from damaging UV rays. Ms. Anderson stated that the water tanks are the property of the Recreation Department.

#### G. QR Codes

Ms. Anderson stated that QR codes are being printed and will be posted when they are ready.

#### H. Wetlands – Bridges for Crystal Ridge

Ms. Anderson has asked to get onto the agenda for the next Zoning/Wetlands meeting to seek approval to build two bridges to cross the water at Crystal Ridge. She and Ms. Amsel walked the area with John Colonese to show him the planned bridge locations.

Ms. Amsel has negotiated a price and ordered lumber and Trex decking materials to build bridges (upon approval). Each bridge would be 20 feet long.

#### I. June Meeting – Move to June 6<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Anderson proposed a change to the June meeting date. After discussion, the Committee agreed to move the meeting to June 14<sup>th</sup>.

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO MOVE THE JUNE MEETING TO JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> AT TOWN HALL.

## VI. Subcommittee Reports

### A. Treasurer

Ms. Anderson shared the current balance of \$3,171.92.

### B. Maintenance

1. Batz: Ms. Amsel sanded and stained the kiosk as well as cleaned up the Sensory Garden. Ms. Anderson cleaned up the garden area and spread mulch as needed.

2. Crystal Ridge: Ms. Anderson reported that Phase 1 is cleaned and blazed. She will order and post boundary signs as well as signs indicating "No motorized vehicles" and "No hunting."
3. Public Works – Trex: Ms. Amsel reported that the Trex materials are in the DPW storage area; she is keeping an eye on it, because it is in an area marked as "Recycling."

#### C. Community Outreach

##### 1. Earth Day – Maps/New Member

Ms. Anderson reported that Earth Day was a success. 125 sets of paper maps were handed out and the Committee members met prospective member Mr. Schultz.

##### 2. Ginny Apple Talk on Deer and Future Talks

Ms. Anderson shared that Ms. Apple's talks are well attended and proposed three additional talks for the fall: Fishers in September, Bats in October, TBD in November, dates to be determined.

##### 3. Bird Walk

Ms. Anderson reported that this event was cancelled due to rain on both proposed dates.

##### 4. CT Trails Day

Ms. van Zelm reported that the walk is confirmed for June 3 at 10:00 am; Ms. Manfre and Ms. Allen volunteered to lead the walk. Erin plans on cutting out a plywood signs and painting it with the Committee's "Keep Ellington Mooving" cow for the entry to the trailhead.

##### 5. May 13<sup>th</sup> Ribbon Cutting

Ms. Anderson is coordinating a time for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony to officially reopen the Metcalf Trail; she expects to have State Representative Foster and First Selectman Spielman present.

##### 6. June 13<sup>th</sup> Event with Jaime Foster and Key Bank

Ms. Anderson shared that she has been in contact with Representative Foster to coordinate with Key Bank's "Volunteer Day" to assign teams to perform two tasks. The group will meet at Pinney Field at 1:00 pm; one team will be sent to Crystal Ridge to help build a bridge and one group will stay at Pinney Field to spread mulch as needed along the Windermere Trail.

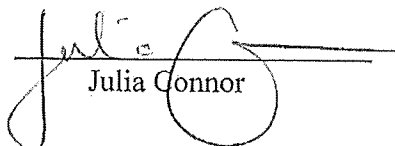
##### 7. June 22<sup>nd</sup> Astronomy/Star Watching at Pinney Field

Ms. Anderson stated that a few tables should be set up between 8:30-8:45 pm. The public is invited to arrive at 9:00 pm to observe the moon and view star clusters through telescopes; no rain date.

#### VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MANFRE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:55 PM.

Prepared by Donna L. Allen, Member; submitted by

  
Julia Connor