



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

**CHAIRMAN**  
LINDA ANDERSON

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TOM PALSHAW  
DAN CHAMBERLIN  
ROBERT BARONE  
ANN HARFORD

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2024  
Town Hall Annex

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Linda Anderson, Tom Palshaw, Robert Barone, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Lindsay Neubecker (by phone), Donna Allen, Ann Harford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Judi Manfre, Bill Shultz, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick.

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

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Ms. Anderson noted that Larrissa Burke had resigned from the Committee.

**II. Citizens' Forum:** There were no public comments.

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

#### **A. March 6, 2024**

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (PALSHAW) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2024 MEETING.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Hockanum River Crew Report**

Mr. Barone said he had walked both the Hockanum River trails, and did a litter pick up on the West Road trail. Some trees were down and water was collecting. With respect to the Windermere Trail, the new boardwalk will extend out of the mud. Ms. Anderson said she will look into an easement from the radio station to use the Franklin section of trail that the Town does not own.

#### **B. Boardwalk – Hockanum**

Ms. Anderson said that the Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency approved using pressure treated wood on the boardwalk. The hope is that the Key Bank volunteer team can work on the boardwalk. Ms. Anderson will also check to see if Big Y volunteers might be able to help as well.

#### **C. Conservation Commission Report**

Ms. Amsel said the Commission was looking at an inventory of historic properties vis a vis the Sustainable CT program application.

There is also some discussion of the acquisition of a property on Kibbe Road, and an area of Green Road for open space preservation.

#### **D. Kiosks**

Ms. Anderson said the kiosks are here and located at Public Works!

Mr. Palshaw said the location of the kiosks on particular trails will serve as the address location for emergency personnel.

Ms. Anderson said the kiosks will be installed by the Boy Scouts in late May. She said two kiosks will be installed at Crystal Ridge, one at the private entrance. All trails will have at least one kiosk. The Committee considered Mr. Palshaw's advice and will install one kiosk at Crystal Ridge and one at Pinney Road at the entrance to the Windermere Trail.

#### **E. Emergency Signs**

Ms. Anderson passed out a copy of what the new emergency signs will look like. Mr. Palshaw noted that he had given a PowerPoint presentation to all the emergency service groups on the new signs.

#### **F. Crystal Ridge Map**

Ms. Anderson reviewed the language on the Crystal Ridge map about the emergency signs. The verbiage of "stay put" to match what is on the sign will be replicated on the map.

#### **G. Road Signs**

Ms. Anderson said road signs have been ordered for Crystal Ridge (two on Old Sandy Beach Road) and Kimball (four at both ends of Hopkins Road).

#### **H. Easements for West Road**

Ms. Anderson said that The Barnyard will put a retention pond near the West Road trail. There will be a culvert to address overflow water that would go into the Hockanum River.

The emergency sign of W-8 will be removed. The trail will stop at emergency sign W-7 and a boundary sign will be put up to indicate to hikers that this is the area where they should turn around.

#### **I. Eagle Scout Project**

An Eagle Scout reached out to Ms. Anderson about doing a bee "hotel", but Ms. Anderson suggested some other projects and the Eagle Scout will get back her.

### **V. New Business**

#### **A. Ellington Highlands Bridge**

Ms. Anderson walked Ellington Highlands with Tom Modzelewski, Director of Public Works, as a bridge is needed to get across an area that will need to be mowed. The bridge needs to be able to carry the heavy load of the mower. Approval for the bridge will need to go through the Town's Inland Wetlands Agency.

#### **B. Batz Wildflower Field**

Ms. Anderson said the field is wet near one of the neighbor's homes. The area will be blocked off with stakes so Public Works will know where it is ok to mow and where it is wet.

### **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

**A. Treasurer:** Ms. Anderson said there is \$3,200 left in the budget for the current fiscal year. She will use some of the money to buy wildflower seeds. Other possible needs are emergency signs and mulch. She will use whatever funds are left for the road signs.

**B. Maintenance:** *(See other reports)*

- 1. Clean-Up Day at Crystal Ridge** - Ms. Anderson said some Boy Scouts and possibly Girl Scouts and Ellington High School Green Earth Club will do maintenance on April 6 at 9 am.
- 2. Metcalf** – Ms. Amsel put down Preem at the entrance of Metcalf.

**C. Community Outreach**

- 1. Ginny Apple Talk Rescheduled – April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Hall Memorial Library**

This was noted but no other discussion was held.

2. **Earth Day – April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Ms. Anderson, Ms. Amsel and Ms. Allen will work at the Committee's table at Earth Day. Maps will be handed out.
3. **Ellington Youth Services – Bring a Buddy/Neighbor Walk for National Public Health Month - April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – Pinney Field, walking Windermere (rain date April 21)**  
– Ms. Anderson passed out the flyer on this event.
4. **CT Trails Day – June 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 am, Windermere** – Ms. van Zelm said registration opens on May 8. After discussion, Ms. van Zelm will change the meeting location on the CT Forest and Park Association CT Trails Day page from the Y to Pinney Fields. The Committee suggested tying the Committee banner to the adjacent fence so people will see the start of the hike.
5. **Bird Walk at Batz – May 11<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 12) – 7:30 am**
6. **Other Events** – Ms. Anderson said the astronomy group reached out and they are looking at holding an event in June and August.  
A geologist will do a walk in the spring of 2025.  
The library is working on a Sunday music series at the Amphitheater at Batz as well as a possible model airplane event at Batz.  
The 3 Foragers will be back in September.  
Zen's Animals will be back in August.  
Ms. Anderson also reached out to a ham radio group to do a demo at Batz.

## VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:51 PM.

Prepared by Cynthia van Zelm; submitted by

  
Julia Connor