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STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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DAN CHAMBERLIN
ROBERT BARONE
ANN HARFORD
MICHAEL EMONS
STEVEN AUSTIN
STUART LANZ

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Judi Manfre, Donna Allen, Bill Schultz, Tom Palshaw, Dan Chamberlin, Robert Barone, Michael Emons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Lindsay Neubecker, Ann Harford, Steven Austin, Stuart Lanz

I. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum

Boy Scout Sean Ellis was in attendance as part of his citizenship requirement. He is also making the bee nesting ground project.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. February 5, 2025

MOVED (EMONS), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2025 MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew

Mr. Barone shared that he walked the Batz Trail and it looked good; Ellington Highlands has snow in the parking lot, and West Road and Hockanum need some minor repairs. He sent pictures of the areas that need repairs to Julia Connor at the Town.

Mr. Palshaw said the maps at Windermere are running out and he will replace them. Ms. Anderson confirmed that maps should be kept at both Windermere trail entrances.

1. Development on Parking Lot Expansion

Ms. Anderson said there was nothing new on the parking lot expansion.

B. Conservation Commission Report

Ms. Amsel said the Commission was looking at some possible farmland easements.

C. Kiosks – Maps, *No Hunting*, *No Motorized Vehicles*

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel said they will be putting up the *No Hunting*, *No Motorized Vehicles* signs and the new maps at the trail kiosks tomorrow as well as checking if the QR codes to the maps are working.

D. Emergency Signs

Mr. Palshaw said the plans for accessing the trails in an emergency have been submitted to dispatch in Tolland where 911 calls are received. Ms. Amsel has the signs for the Northern CT Land Trust trails and will put them up.

E. Map – Ellington Highlands

Ms. Anderson is working with Rebecca at AppGeo to finalize the Ellington Highlands map.

F. Easements for West Road

Ms. Anderson and Mr. Palshaw met with the Islamic Center on West Road to discuss a possible easement on their parking lot to allow access to the nearby trail. The main concern was ensuring that the parking lot spaces are open during key prayer times. Ms. Anderson also spoke to someone at the condo association, and they were going to discuss the easement with association leadership. She also spoke to Sullivan Tire and those conversations are on-going.

G. Eagle Scout Projects – Just Bee Hotel

Mr. Ellis said he has almost finished fundraising for the bee hotel project and expects to start building it in April with completion in May.

H. Gates Update – No Additions

There were no updates. Mr. Palshaw said the area near the second gate at Crystal will be graded out to deal with the erosion.

I. Community Service Hours for High School Students Committee

Ms. Anderson spoke to Sam at Ellington Public Works, and the Ellington Senior Center committee has not met yet. No one at Ellington High School has been identified as the lead. Mr. Schultz will follow up to see if anyone at the high school can be identified to take the lead.

J. Facebook

Mr. Emons reported that Committee member Steven Austin had tried to meet with Lauren Desrocher at the library but they had not connected. Ms. Anderson will follow up with Ms. Desrocher.

K. Cleanup Day at Ellington Highlands or Kimball – April 5th, Green Earth Club

Ms. Anderson said the Committee will do a clean-up day at Ellington Highlands or Kimball. She asked Mr. Schultz if the Green Earth Club would like to help and Mr. Schultz will check with the students. Ms. Anderson will also check with Committee members not in attendance.

L. Boy Scout Cleanup Day at Crystal Ridge – May 10th at 9am with Green Earth Club

Ms. Anderson said the Boy Scouts will have a clean-up day at Crystal Ridge on May 10 and she also asked Mr. Schultz if the Green Earth Club would like to help. Tasks include leaf blowing, adding a railing to the bridge, and bringing in more drainage stone.

M. Cub Scout Cleanup Day at Batz – April 12th at 9am

Ms. Anderson said the Cub Scouts will do a clean up at Batz. She does not need any other volunteers.

N. T-Mobile Hometown Grant Update

Ms. Anderson checked with some Town departments to see if they were interested in submitting a T-Mobile Hometown Grant. None of them expressed interest at this time so the Trails Committee discussed the idea of applying for a canopy over the amphitheater as well as solar panels, with the goal to have more use of the amphitheater. This would allow for a microphone to be used and possible lights. Ms. Allen and Ms. Amsel have taken the lead on preparing the application. Mr. Emons said maintenance should be considered in terms of the long-term cost of the amphitheater. There would need to be several layers of approval at the Town to implement the project if it was funded.

V. New Business**A. Painting of Storage Bin**

Mr. Shultz said he will work with an art teacher at Ellington High School to see if some students are interested in painting the storage bin. He hopes this can be done this year.

B. List of Projects for This Year and Future

Ms. Anderson will bring a list of potential trail projects for this year and future years to the next meeting.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ms. Anderson said there is still \$2,933.18 left in the budget to spend this fiscal year.

B. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel referred to the bridge rail design from the last meeting and asked if anyone had any changes. She also noted that she replaced the fabric panel at the sensory garden at Batz.

1. Start Bridge Replacement once school ends

Ms. Anderson said work will be done for the bridge replacement at Windermere. She will talk to State Rep. Jaime Foster to see if she wants to participate again with Good Neighbor Day to help with this project. Ms. Anderson will also check with Big Y as their employees also participated last year.

C. Community Outreach**1. Cleanup Day on April 5th at Ellington Highlands or Kimball with Green Earth Club and any volunteers**

See notes above.

2. Cub Scout Batz Cleanup – April 12th, 9am

See notes above.

3. Earth Day – April 26, 2025, Town Green, 10am – 2pm

- Setup: 8-9am, Help
- Help at Table: 10am-Noon
- Noon-2pm/Breakdown

Ms. Anderson asked for volunteers to work at the Trails Committee Table at Earth Day. Ms. van Zelm said she could do an early shift. Ms. Allen will help out at the afternoon shift and breakdown.

4. Bird Walk at Batz – May 3rd, 2025, 7:30am (rain date May 4th), need volunteer for rain date

Ms. van Zelm said she can be the point person for the rain date as Ms. Anderson will be unavailable.

5. Cleanup Day at Crystal Ridge – May 10th, 9am start with Boy Scouts, Green Earth Club and any other volunteers

See notes above.

6. CT Trails Day – Ellington Highlands, June 7-8, 2025

The Committee agreed to lead a hike for CT Trails Day at Ellington Highlands on June 7 at 10 am. Mr. Emons will check to see if Mr. Austin can lead the hike.

7. 3 Foragers sometime in July

Ms. Anderson said the Library is looking into a date for a hike with the 3 Foragers in July.

8. CT Astronomy Night – August 12, 2025 at Pinney Field, 9pm – midnight

Ms. Anderson noted the date and time for the event with the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford.

9. Geologist – Ray Schaeffer

Ms. Anderson is still working on trying to get geologist Ray Schaeffer to lead a walk.

10. Chess Tournament, Fall 2025

The Library has the lead on a possible chess tournament at Batz.

11. Color My World Theme for Hall Memorial Library Summer Reading Program – Any Ideas

Ms. Anderson asked if there were any ideas for how the Trails Committee might participate in the reading program. Read to kids? Ms. Manfre suggested a talk from Jane Seymour on Pollinators.

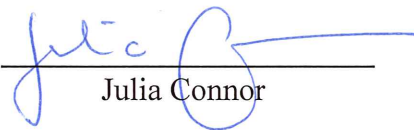
12. Trail of Treats – End of October, no date yet

There was no update.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (BARONE), SECONDED (EMONS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Submitted by



Julia Connor