



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

**CHAIRMAN**  
LINDA ANDERSON

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

**SECRETARY**  
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TOM PALSHAW  
DAN CHAMBERLIN  
ROBERT BARONE  
ANN HARFORD  
MICHAEL EMONS  
STEVEN AUSTIN  
STUART LANZ

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2025  
Town Hall Annex

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Donna Allen, Tom Palshaw, Robert Barone

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Linda Anderson, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Lindsay Neubecker, Bill Schultz, Dan Chamberlin, Ann Harford, Michael Emons, Steven Austin, Stuart Lanz

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

Ms. van Zelm called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. It was noted that there was no quorum.

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

No citizens were present.

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

#### **A. May 7, 2025**

There was no quorum to approve the minutes.

### **IV. Old Business**

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

Mr. Palshaw reported the following:

- They worked on the deck to the bridge closest to H4. Ms. Amsel had some screws that worked well. They will need more screws.
- The tree that was hanging at a 45-degree angle has shifted and is now out of the way.
- They fixed the fence posts near the conduit.
- They put a cross-plate on the bridge post near H4.
- They mowed West Road Trail.
- They placed a tarp over the Japanese Knotweed near the pond to experiment whether it would kill or better control the weed.
- They pulled any litter they saw along the trail and the river.
- They reported that there are indications that the trail is being well used.

#### **B. Conservation Report**

There was no report.

#### **C. Kiosks – Map – Ellington Highlands**

Ms. Anderson placed maps at the kiosk at Ellington Highlands. Ms. Amsel placed maps at the Metcalf Trail. Mr. Palshaw placed maps at the Windermere Trail.

**D. Easements for West Road**

There was no report.

**E. Community Service Hours for High School Students Committee**

There was no report.

**F. Facebook**

Mr. Austin has the ability to update the Ellington Trails Facebook site.

**G. T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program**

Ms. van Zelm reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission voted to support the Trails Committee in the T-Mobile grant process at their meeting on May 19, 2025.

Ms. Allen is gathering images and data to complete the grant application before the June 30 due date.

**H. Painting of Storage Bin**

Committee members agreed that the painting of the storage bin was a great improvement.

**I. Widening Bridge at Ellington Highlands for Fire Access**

Ms. van Zelm reported that Ms. Anderson agreed that the bridge at Ellington Highlands needs to be widened to accommodate emergency vehicles. Mr. Palshaw has spoken with the Fire Chief and will schedule a day and time to inspect the bridge to determine what specifications will be needed.

**J. Follow-up Details: Dianne Trueb/Ellington Historical Society Ghost Walk, Possible Use of Batz for Sleepy Hollow Event**

There was no report.

**V. New Business**

There was no new business.

**VI. Subcommittee Reports****A. Treasurer**

The current balance is \$1481.36.

**B. Maintenance**

- Ms. Amsel will be buying wood and screws to complete bridge projects.
- Ms. Anderson had mentioned she will purchase mulch for the sensory garden at the Batz property.
- She also will purchase additional items to give away at the Trail of Treats.
- Ms. van Zelm is going to investigate purchasing a new canopy/tent to cover our table at events.
- Ms. Amsel replaced a piece of rotted wood at the Batz sensory garden and thinks we will need to replace most of the garden frames.
- Ms. Anderson placed all the signs at the sensory garden.
- Ms. Allen weeded the Batz sensory garden and around the sign at the front entrance.
- 1-2 more pavers are needed at the Quartz Trail bridge at Crystal Ridge and some additional blazing.

**C. Community Outreach****1. Cleanup Day at Crystal Ridge – May 10, 2025, with Boy Scouts, Green Earth Club**

Ms. Amsel reported that we had a good turnout. We were able to put a railing on the bridge, widen the path leading up from the bridge, and raked the higher trails.

**2. CT Trails Day – Ellington Highlands, June 7, 2025 at 10am with Ms. van Zelm and Steve Austin**

There was no update.

**3. 3 Foragers – Unavailable in July**

The 3 Foragers provided two fall dates for a fall hike but they do not work for the Committee. A possible idea is to do a hike in the spring/early summer of 2026.

**4. Jane Seymour Pollinator Talk at Batz – August 5 at 10am, co-sponsored with Hall Memorial Library**

There was no update.

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

There was no update.

**6. Farmers Market – Saturday, August 23, 2025 – will have a table to hand out maps and information**

There was no update.

**7. Geologist Ray Schaeffer – Walk at Crystal Ridge on September 27, 9am, future talk at Hall Memorial Library in the winter**

There was no update.

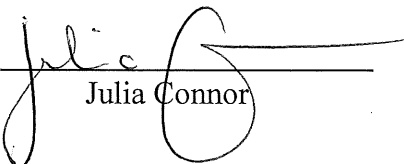
**8. Trail of Treats – End of October, no date yet**

There was no update.

**VII. Adjournment**

MS. VAN ZELM ADJOURNED THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:15 PM.

Recorded by Donna L. Allen

Submitted by   
Julia Connor