



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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TOM PALSHAW
DAN CHAMBERLIN
ROBERT BARONE
ANN HARFORD
STEVEN AUSTIN
STUART LANZ
RYAN BIBEAU

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026
Children's Room, Hall Memorial Library

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm, Donna Allen, Tom Palshaw, Robert Barone, Ann Harford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Valerie Amsel, Bill Schultz, Dan Chamberlin, Steven Austin, Stuart Lanz, Ryan Bibeau, Lindsay Neubecker

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum: No citizens were present.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. April 1, 2026

There was no quorum to approve the minutes. Ms. Anderson noted that Mr. Schultz was not listed on the April minutes as not in attendance. Ms. Allen noted a correction in the April minutes. Scout Divija Adhikary's name needs an extra "i" and her last name needs to be included.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew Report

M. Barone said the wood near the Trails Committee storage unit is rotten and needs to be discarded. There is replacement wood that will be used for the sensory garden. Ms. Anderson will check with Ellington DPW to see if they can put the wood on a pallet per a request from Mr. Barone.

Mr. Barone noted that someone put up a sign that says the Franklin Trail is not to be used. Ms. Anderson reiterated that the Town does not want any work done on non-Town-owned trails.

B. Windermere Trail

Mr. Barone noted that the river crew reoriented a bench at Windermere that was in danger of falling into the water. Ms. Anderson commended the crew for keeping the knotweed under control. Mr. Palshaw said he mowed the spur so it is wider for walking. He will talk to DPW about getting access to the gate at one of the railheads so the river crew can do work.

The Committee continued to discuss how to deal with the Windermere Trail crossing private property. The focus for now will be to see if one of the property owners will provide a letter of permission for accessing the land near the industrial park.

C. Conservation Report

There was no report.

D. Easements for West Road

There were no updates.

E. T-Mobile Hometown Grant Update

Ms. Allen said she will know about the status of the Trails Committee application by the end of May.

F. Eagle Scout – Crystal Ridge Project

Divija Adhikary is fundraising for materials for the bench she will install at Crystal Ridge. Her plan is to install it in June.

Ms. Anderson ordered two gates for the Crystal Ridge Trail.

G. CT Trail Finder

Ms. Anderson said she is continuing to reach out to Ellington businesses to encourage them to provide information/links on the Ellington trails on CT Trail Finder as it is a good promotional tool for them.

V. New Business

Mr. Palshaw said he would like to add a “vinyl floor mat” to the more slippery bridges on the Windermere Trail. He gave Ms. Anderson a brochure and picture of one used at a business in Tolland. Ms. Anderson said she would look into the possibility of some type of mat to make the bridges less slippery.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ms. Anderson said there is \$3,203.80 left in the Trails budget. She asked the Hockanum River crew team to let her know if they need any supplies. Ms. Harford said she will buy some wood for the Windermere Trail. Mr. Palshaw said some rocks to alleviate muddy areas on the Windermere Trail would be helpful. Ms. Anderson said she would like to spend as much money down as possible by early June.

Ms. Anderson said DPW has a cabinet the Committee can use for its supplies.

B. Maintenance**1. Outhouse at Batz**

Ms. Anderson said Ms. Amsel put on handles and a new spring on the outhouse and also provided toilet paper.

2. Sensory Garden/Peach Tree/Bee Hotel and Sign

Ms. Anderson said she, Ms. Allen, and Mr. Bibeau weeded and mulched the sensory garden, peach tree area, bee hotel and near the entry sign. The fruit tree area still needs to be weeded and mulched.

3. Pollinator and Bluebird Signs at Batz

Ms. Anderson ordered four signs – two for the pollinator garden and two do not disturb signs near the bluebird houses.

4. Downed Tree at Batz – Removed

A downed tree at Batz was removed by DPW.

5. Kimball Cleanup, April 18th – William Schultz, Donna Allen, Stuart Lanz, Jay Lanz, Kat Lanz, Linda Anderson; 3 trees needed removal, Public Works has been notified; peach trail needs re-blazing, all need touchups

Ms. Anderson will get plastic blazes to replace the painted blazes at Kimball. Kimball is 100% cleaned up!

6. Crystal Ridge Cleanup with Troop 96, May 2nd – Committee members Donna Allen, William Schultz, Linda Anderson with 10 Troop 96 members and 5 dads; all trails cleaned

of leaves, pavement stones adjusted, 10 bags of drainage stones put down on wet spot at Quartz Bridge, 5 posts with ropes installed on steep hill (orange trail), ropes tied to trees on steep part of Zach's Trails

Ms. Anderson said all trees were cleared of leaves. Ropes were installed to assist with the up and downs of the trails to avoid slipping. Trash was carried out.

Ms. van Zelm thanked everyone for their work.

C. Community Outreach

1. Geologist Talk, April 9th at Senior Center – over 30 attendees

Ms. Anderson said the talk went very well.

2. Earth Day Event on April 25th – set up help Stuart Lanz, Donna Allen, Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm; worked table Donna Allen, Cynthia van Zelm, Linda Anderson, Ryan Bibeau; 100 maps given out, lots of nice conversations with attendees

Ms. Anderson said the new canopy that Mr. Lanz donated worked very well. It goes up and down much easier than the old canopy and is very sturdy. She said there is one person interested in joining the Committee and one person interested in helping with clean-up. Ms. Allen will reach out to this person.

3. Bird Walk on May 2 cancelled due to rain, rescheduled May 9, 7am at Batz

The bird walk is rescheduled for May 9 but unfortunately, rain is forecast again.

4. CT Trails Day, June 6th at 9am, Pinney Field with Vernon Greenways

Ms. van Zelm said CT Trails Day registration is now open. She will send out an email to the Committee and the Vernon Greenways contact, as well as work on other promotions for the hike. Ms. Anderson suggested that the press release also be sent to the Patch. Ms. van Zelm will follow up. Ms. Allen will take any hikers back to the parking lot who only want to do the shorter hike.

5. First Walk, July 21st, 9am at Highland Trail with Julia Sonen (DEEP) with Hall Memorial Library – registration required, 15 attendee limit
6. Astronomy Event at Pinney Field, August 12th, 9pm-midnight
7. Farmers Market – August/September, date to be determined

Ms. van Zelm will follow up with the Market Master to see if the Committee can have a booth in August or September.

8. Trail of Treats, October – date not announced yet
9. Annual After-Thanksgiving Walk, Saturday, November 28, Snipsic Lake Road, 10am

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by


Julia Merriam