



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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CHERI MURPHY
RECORDING SECRETARY

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
RACHEL DEARBORN
JEFFERY MILLER
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
GEORGE VARTANIAN

ERIN STAVENS
CHAIRMAN

LAUREN DESROCHER
VICE CHAIRMAN

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher, Rachel Dearborn, Erin Stavens, Cheri Murphy, Cynthia van Zelm, Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara

MEMBERS ABSENT: Valerie Amsel, Jeffrey Miller, George Vartanian

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 1, 2017

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 1, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

B. December 6, 2017

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 6, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WITH THE AMENDMENT THAT CYNTHIA VAN ZELM ABSTAINED DURING THE VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 1, 2017 MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Brainstorming 2018 Goals/Projects, Cleanup Days, Events

Chairman Erin Stavens recommended a monthly clean-up of Hockanum, beginning in May. Lauren Desrocher recommended recruiting more volunteers; the Committee could reach out to Youth Services and the high school to gauge interest. The following days were brought up as ideas for possible events: International Earth Day (March 20), Earth Day (April 22), Love a Tree Day (May 16), Wildflower Week (May 6-12) and International Trails Day (June 2). Erin would like to offer a rotating weekend hike series to residents; the Committee would need to look into what sort of liability would come with that type of event series. Pam McCormick asked about brochures and a calendar for these upcoming events; she also is interested in what types of grants may be available to the group.

The Committee will look into submitting upcoming events information in the Ellington Events magazine and any other Town publications. Erin plans to attend the next Beautification Committee meeting to see what kind of coordination the two groups can share for future events. Cynthia van Zelm and Bruce Dinnie offered to reach out to First Selectman Spielman to find out the deadline to get information included in the next DEEP brochure.

Rachel Dearborn expressed her desire to revisit the overall goals of the Committee. What is the main focus? Members may have different areas they would like to focus on, and as this is still the group's first year, different projects will take time to coordinate. Cynthia volunteered to outline the Trails Committee's mission. Bruce mentioned that having a group of non-member volunteers would be beneficial for a lot of projects.

Erin suggested contacting any members that have not been attending meetings regularly to gauge their interest in continuing to serve on the Committee in an official capacity.

Brookside Park will be a priority project for the Committee in 2018.

B. Set Dates for 2018 Events

All dates listed below are to be determined; Erin will review them and create a spreadsheet to share with the committee members. This will inform the group of upcoming events, as well as allow members to RSVP.

1. Wednesday, January 31- "Snow Moon Night Walk" at the YMCA trail; the start time will be announced but will most likely be around 7:00 pm. Erin will update the Facebook page with more information.

2. Saturday, February 17- "Guided Walk" of the Windermere Trail, beginning at 10:00 am and starting from the YMCA. This location provides the best option for this time of year in regards to parking, and it is the easiest trail for kids. This will be an informational hike about the trail.

3. Saturday, March 17- "St. Patrick's Day Hike" at 10:00 am at Brookside Park.

4. Sunday, April 22- "Earth Day" Hike at the West Road Trail at 10:00 am. This event may possibly planting flowers or something Earth Day related. Bruce recommended daffodils as they are a hearty flower, but the Committee would need to come up with funding as they can be expensive. Erin reported that they Committee has \$500 from the Town. The group could revisit the idea of acquiring sponsors for the various trails. Bruce mentioned we could plant milkweed for the butterflies, as it grows well in fields.

5. May 12- The first Clean-up Committee Walk will be the Batz Property from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

6. May 19- The first public "Clean-up Day" will be at the West Road Trail from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

7. June 2- "Trails Day" at Batz, time to be determined.

8. June 16- Clean-up at West Road from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

C. Farmers Market

There was no discussion.

VI. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Determine February Group Trail Walk

In lieu of the group trail walk, the Windermere "Guided Walk" is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

B. Other

There was no other discussion regarding action items. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02 PM.

Submitted by



