



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

CHERI MURPHY
RECORDING SECRETARY

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
RACHEL DEARBORN
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

ERIN STAVENS
CHAIRMAN

LAUREN DESROCHER
VICE CHAIRMAN

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheri Murphy, Valerie Amsel

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Bob Tedford, Dan Parisi, Andrew Parisi, Linda Anderson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. **CITIZENS FORUM:** Andrew Parisi presented the trail map boxes he made for the trails as part of his Eagle Scouts project. He completed eight map boxes and also has done work on the youth garden at the Batz property. Andrew and Dan Parisi dismissed themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 7, 2018

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 7, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approve Mission Statement

Erin read the following Trails Mission Statement: “The goal of the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee is to enhance, develop, and maintain trails on properties owned by the Town of Ellington for community recreation.”

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE MISSION STATEMENT AS READ.

B. Officially Choose Subcommittees

The following appointments were made:

Committee Advisor: Bruce Dinnie

Trail Maintenance: Erin Stavens (Chair) Valerie Amsel, Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson (*upon formal appointment from the Board of Selectmen [BOS]*)

Planning and Development: Rachel Dearborn (Chair), Lauren Desrocher, Erin Stavens, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson (*upon formal appointment from the BOS*)

Community Outreach and Publicity: Cynthia Van Zelm (Chair), Erin Stavens

Finance: Lois Timms-Ferrara (Chair), Cynthia Van Zelm

Each subcommittee should report at the regular monthly meeting as to what they are working on.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trails Day Deadline

Cynthia reported that she submitted the information to be included in Trails Day and did receive feedback that it was received. It will be in the Trails Day booklet and on the website. The Committee's hike is on Saturday, June 2 at 10:00 am on the Windermere Trail; hikers will meet and park behind the YMCA. Bob Tedford mentioned that last year, the Lions Club provided refreshments and he will check with them again to see if they are interested this year. Cynthia will check with the YMCA to see if it is an option to have the refreshments in the back of the YMCA parking lot.

B. Working on Committee Structure

The Committee discussed working toward a more formal and organized structure.

VI. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. "Spring Public Hike" 3/23 at 10:00 am at the West Road Trail

The agenda reflected an incorrect date, and was clarified for the members. Erin will be organizing the spring hike for Sunday, March 25 at 10:00 am. Parking will be available at the West Road and the group will meet at the beginning of the trail.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

It has been reported that Jeffery Miller and George Vartanian have submitted resignations creating two openings on the committee. Linda Anderson was present at the meeting and is hoping to fill one of those openings. The Committee would like to have someone from Youth Services or Parks and Recreation Department as a liaison to attend Trails meetings, as Bob Tedford has been doing.

Erin got an estimate of \$30,000 for the material needed to create a six foot-wide, mile-long trail around Brookside Park. Discussion was held regarding how to raise this money and what maintenance costs would be. Lois will be contacting Tim Webb in Public Works and First Selectman Lori Spielman to see what options there are for this budget and potential Town assistance.

Committee members have been informed that there is an issue with people parking in private driveways by the Metcalf Property. Options for possible signage and new fencing were discussed. Lauren Desrocher will reach out to the residents of Woodside Acres to see if they would be agreeable to a Full Moon Hike at Metcalf.

Bruce recommended that a Blue Ways Subcommittee be formed to make Town waterways more user friendly. Valerie Amsel and Erin Stavens were both interested in being involved with that. They would like to work with Ann Harford to clean up the Hockanum River, with a final goal to make it passable all the way to the Mansions in Vernon.

No one was able to attend the public meeting about the Middle Butcher Road Sidewalk Project, but Rachel reported that Public Works is planning to construct a sidewalk from Ellington Avenue to the Middle School on the south side of Middle Butcher Road. The plans are still being created and the meeting was to inform the public that the issue with walkers is noted and being addressed.

There was discussion about the option of sidewalks along Abbott Rd toward Windermere School from the newly created sidewalk section. There was also a recommendation that the Committee look into sidewalks in the Crystal Lake School area.

Bruce reported that there is money in the budget for signage, such as ones alerting hikers that they are leaving Town property. Lauren recommended that the Committee keep a stock of small signs and that local companies are considered when making the signs. Discussion centered on preparing historical signs like the ones along the Hockanum Trail, perhaps highlighting the old trolley line. This could possibly be another subcommittee.

Bob mentioned that he has more trail maps. He also mentioned that he would like the Committee's input on the maps before the next reprint.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:03 PM.

Submitted by: _____



