

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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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
April 4, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erin Stavens, Cheri Murphy, Cynthia van Zelm, Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Valerie Amsel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rachel Dearborn, Lauren Desrocher

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Linda Anderson, Robert Tedford

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 14, 2018

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Spring Hike Event – 3/25

The spring public hike held on Sunday, March 25 was a success. The turnout was good, with about 40 people attending.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Metcalf (Rice Property)

Erin Stavens received a complaint from Dave Rice, a resident who owns property near Metcalf. He reported that someone raced through the property on a motor bike and is engaging in other mischievous behavior as well.

B. Rugged Farmer Mud Run 4/22 @ Brookside

This is a new event sponsored by the Department of Human Services to benefit the Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation. There was discussion about whether the Trails Committee should be present at the event; it will be held on Sunday, April 22 at Brookside Park. This conflicts with the Boy Scout cleanup event on the West Road Trail on that day.

C. Earth Day Event 4/22 @ West Rd Trail

This will be a cleanup event of the land area at the West Road Trail.

D. Boy Scout projects

Erin has been in contact with a local Boy Scout troop that is interested in helping with future cleanup events. She will go to the Batz property with them in the future to take measurements for an eventual bridge project.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Lois Timms-Ferrara met with Tim Webb from Public Works as well as Lori Spielman in regards to the Brookside Park project. The cost of the project will be approximately \$30,000, which will need to be collected through fundraising efforts. Perhaps the Committee could get donations from local businesses. Another idea was a possible Go Fund Me page which could be advertised on Facebook. Bruce Dinnie asked if there is another company similar to Go Fund Me which would not take a percentage of the money raised. Go Fund Me charges 30 cents per transaction as well as receives 2.9% of what is raised. Phase I of the project could potentially begin taking place after the Mud Run and Phase II after the Firemen's Fair. This would all be based on donations so as of right now there is no formal timeline. Public Works as well as volunteers would do most of the labor for this project. Tim Webb also suggested we talk with the Inland Wetlands Agency for approval. Moving forward, the Committee would also need to present this idea to the Board of Selectmen. Lois plans to set up another time to meet with Tim Webb. Erin and Cheri expressed an interest in attending that meeting as well.

B. Planning/Development

There is a need for this subcommittee to visit the Hopkins property to assess it.

C. Maintenance

The water is high at the West Road Trail, and trash is building up. Erin believes that people are using this trail to have fires and to drink and are leaving their trash. The Land Trust trails require re-blazing and more general monitoring.

D. Publicity/Community Reach-out

Erin will be putting together a list of upcoming events which can be publicized, especially Trails Day. Erin will also find out who is in charge of the Town website. Cynthia, as Publicity Chair, will meet with

Erin to go over what else needs to be done. Bruce recommends doing a publicity "blast" in all Ellington publications. Lauren expressed concern that there is nothing about us in the Ellington Patch or Facebook Town page or the Ellington news calendar, and wondered how the Committee can advertise better. On the Town of Ellington website, people should be able to directly access trail maps from the homepage.

Ellington Printery will print updated brochures. They will also make more signs. The more that are bought, the less the individual cost.

VII. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Earth Day Preparations

On April 21, 2018 (Earth Day Weekend), the Town will be hosting an Earth Day event with Earthlight, Homestead and Bahler Brothers, with over 30 local vendors in attendance. They have requested the Trails Committee attend this event. The event will be held at the Congregational Church and Town Green from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Lois and Lauren will be attending to give people information about the Committee and trails. They will also be creating a list of names and emails of anyone who may wish to volunteer and/or receive information about events. Bob will be printing out brochures for them to have at this event, but they won't be the updated ones from Ellington Printery.

Erin has trash bags and buckets for the Sunday, April 22 cleanup of the West Road Trail. She will also bring the "We're working" sign. Volunteers should bring their own gloves and wear loose, comfortable clothing.

B. Farmers Market

Erin and Cynthia will reach out to see how the Committee can be involved with this year's Farmers Market.

C. Raising money for Brookside

The Brookside finance discussion will continue after the Rugged Farmer Mud Run event; another meeting with Tim Webb will be set up.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Lauren had previously recommended creating a formal list of all of our contacts, including volunteers, as well as inquired about the upcoming Town meeting on April 5. Lois didn't think attendance was required; however, Erin and Pam were going to try to attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:05 PM.

Submitted by: 

