

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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PAM MCCORMICK  
RACHEL DEARBORN  
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM  
LINDA ANDERSON

ERIN STAVENS  
CHAIRMAN

LAUREN DESROCHER  
VICE CHAIRMAN

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2018  
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erin Stavens, Cynthia van Zelm, Linda Anderson, Pam McCormick, Valerie Amsel, Lauren Desrocher, Lois Timms-Ferrara

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheri Murphy and Rachel Dearborn

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Robert Tedford, Judi Manfre, Ann Harford, Griffin Small

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. CITIZENS FORUM:

- A. Ann Harford of Vernon discussed the problem of large overgrowth of Japanese knotweed along the Hockanam River and the West Road Trail and requested assistance in stomping it out as well as spreading the word to engage other volunteers to do so. She and her team attack the problem in various locations each Wednesday morning. Erin Stavens assured her that the Committee supports her mission and would assist in getting the word out and would work on the problem at the West Road Trail.
- B. Erin Stavens introduced Griffin, a recent volunteer who assisted the clean-up effort at the West Road Trail. Griffin will join our Trails Maintenance Team and has agreed to be the steward of the West Road Trail.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 4, 2018

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 4, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Earth Day Table – 4/21

Linda Anderson reported that 34 people signed up to receive regular communications from the Committee. She reported that there was a steady flow of people interested in the trails in Town and that they nearly ran out of maps. There were approximately 75 maps distributed that day.

Lois Timms-Ferrara announced that the winner of the Earth Day raffle was Pat Grundman; Lois will request that Pat join us at our next regular meeting to receive her Ellington Trails tee shirt.

#### B. Earth Day Clean Up – 4/22

This clean-up, the Committee's first of the year, was scheduled at the West Road Trail, and Erin Stavens described the event as very successful. She said several families joined and there was interest in getting more involved among the group.

#### C. Rugged Farmer Mud Run – 4/22

This event took place on Earth Day at Brookside Park. Erin ran the race with her siblings and reported that the path does appear to be the same as our intended trail around the fields at the Park.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. T-Shirt Orders

The shirts have been delivered. There are a total of 75 shirts running in sizes from Youth Medium to Adult XXXL. A discussion ensued regarding the price to charge and Erin made the following motion.

**MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CHARGE \$15 PER SHIRT FOR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS.**

The shirts will be available for sale at the Trails Day event.

#### B. Brookside Draft Proposal

The path was walked and measured by Erin, Cheri and Lauren and was just under a mile.

Barber Utilities provided a cost quote for the walking path [ATTACHED]. The estimate broke the project into three phases with an anticipated timeline of the first phase to be completed prior to the Firemen's Carnival, second phase to follow that event, and the third phase to be scheduled for 2019.

#### C. May Cleanup: 5/19 on YMCA Trail

This will take place starting at 9:00 am and conclude by 1:00 pm. The group will meet up at the Pinney Street Fields. Erin will prepare a brochure for the library and post the announcement on Facebook.

#### D. Wild Flower Week: 5/6 – 5/12 (Facebook Post)

Erin will post trail photos and information about wild flowers during that week.

#### E. Love a Tree Day: 5/16 (Facebook Post)

Erin will post pictures and information on Facebook.

#### F. Other

The Trails Committee has an official Town email: [trails@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:trails@ellington-ct.gov). Erin will keep up with the email and distribute to committee members as required.

Metcalf signs: Lauren and Bruce will walk Metcalf to review needed signage and remove the ladder. Lauren will follow up with Lori Spielman regarding the necessary signage. Erin will look into getting some rope to mark off the start of the path.

New maps have been requested from Ellington emergency personnel. All agreed that the maps need updating. Action on this was tabled pending further discussion.

Windermere turn-around: This appears to be a dangerous spot and could use either guard rails or perhaps be roped off. Erin will look into it further with Public Works

Batz: Erin will suggest to the Boy Scouts the idea for the bridge at this location.

Trails Day: Cynthia reminded everyone the event is June 2, 2018 and the Committee will meet at 9:30 am at the Windermere Trail at the Pinney Street fields, with the hike taking place from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. The t-shirts will be for sale at this event.

Erin requested that the Committee take on marking property lines for the West Road Trail, complete with appropriate signage. This will be on the next agenda.

## VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Finance

There was no update, as the cost quote for the Brookside project was provided earlier in the meeting and the tee shirt fundraiser was also finalized.

Discussion then focused on the financing of the Brookside project. Lauren voiced concern about all of the fundraising going to this project and Lois remarked that a project of this size really lends itself to Town funding rather than an Ad-Hoc Committee designed to take care of current trails and forge new ones. Bob Tedford suggested the Committee consider going the route of additional appropriation once the proposal becomes more solid. Erin suggested that a petition be developed in support of the project as part of that process. More discussion will take place when all of the committee members are present.

Another point was raised pertaining to fundraising: would contributions be tax-deductible? Lois will investigate and report at our next meeting.

### B. Planning/Development

Lauren introduced a strong potential new project to the Committee after she, Rachel, and Bruce investigated it: the Kimball Brook/Hopkins Trail. This property is about 20-30 acres and they flagged a one mile trail. This varied terrain included a ridge trail, and they encountered masses of Mountain Laurel, another stone foundation, and multiple waterfalls. This loop connects to the Shenipsit Trail on the Tolland town line and is across from Soapstone. In her report, Lauren noted the need to create parking spaces, as well as three necessary river crossings. The bridges would include one larger one and two smaller; the ballpark cost for these would be around \$1,500.

A second potential trail that was identified is along the Broad Brook town line near Hopkin Road and Bridge Street.

Lauren and Rachel attended a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss each of these possible venues for new trails, which were received with enthusiasm.

A full Committee discussion ensued and Bob Tedford stated that he would be able to commit to funding the Hopkins Trail bridges from the Parks and Recreation budget to jumpstart that project.

C. Maintenance

This committee report was given as part of the earlier agenda items.

D. Publicity/Community Reach-out

Cynthia, Chairperson of the Publicity Subcommittee, met with Erin and Linda and determined a plan for Facebook communications, press releases and email blasts to announce various Trails events.

VII. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Farmers Market

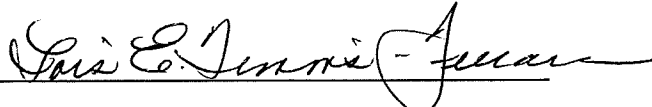
There will be a table at the Farmers' Market to share our information and enlist support.

B. Raising Money for Brookside

Discussion for this was tabled given ideas for securing town financial support discussed previously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (MCCORMICK), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:45 PM.

Submitted by 

Lois Timms-Ferrara