

# 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  
LINDA ANDERSON  
JUDI MANFRE

ERIN STAVENS  
CHAIRMAN

LAUREN DESROCHER  
VICE CHAIRMAN

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2018  
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia van Zelm, Rachel Dearborn, Erin Stavens, Lauren Desrocher, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Valerie Amsel, Pam McCormick, Cheri Murphy, Linda Anderson, Judi Manfre

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Tedford, Tom Pell, Sai Kapu, Kesara Kapu, Bruce Dinnie

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### II. CITIZENS FORUM:

Tom Pell, after walking the trails, made a recommendation to mark/label certain locations within each trail; this would assist in emergency services efforts. The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) has requested such markers, as well as corresponding GPS locations as well. This item will be placed on a future agenda for further discussion. Ideally, the signs will be weatherproof and could be placed on trees along the trails. Rachel Dearborn recommended marking the trails by miles; that way, it would serve a dual purpose. Erin Stavens stated that there should be universal entrance signs for each trail, so that those walking would know exactly which trail they were on.

Sai Kapu, a Boy Scout from Troop 96, is working on his next badge and was in attendance at the meeting just to listen; he has six service hours to complete.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. May 2, 2018

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MAY 2, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Trails Clean Up – 5/19

Valerie Amsel walked the trail and didn't see any trash. Erin stated that there was some trash by the parking lot but that the trails were okay. It was raining that morning, so the cleanup only lasted about an hour.

#### B. Trails Day – 6/2

Cynthia reported that there were about 20 attendees. Erin led the walk. There was a variety of ages, many families and plenty of turtles in and around the pond. A suggestion was made to plan the Trails Day event on the same day as Vernon's hike next year. Some pictures were found on Facebook, but the Committee is looking for others if anyone took any.

### C. Brookside Park

Erin reported that instead of the original plan of raising \$10,000 and doing Phase I of the project, it would be best to put it on hold in order to plan it properly for the future. The Committee would also like to look into installing exercise stations, similar to those at Dart Hill Park in Vernon. Bruce Dinnie did the research for Dart Hill Park, so he will get that information for the Committee. East Hampton and Nevers Park in South Windsor are also good examples to study. More research and planning is necessary to properly plan and execute the Brookside Park project as a potential Capital Improvements Project.

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (MURPHY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO PLAN AND SUBMIT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUEST FOR THE BROOKSIDE PARK WALKING TRAIL PROJECT, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2019-20 FY BUDGET.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. West Road Clean Up/Turtle Release – 6/16, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

The turtle release planned for the West Road Trail is quickly approaching; Erin clarified that participants don't need to be in the river if they don't want to. The turtle has been acclimating to outdoor temperatures in preparation for the event. Tom Pell reported that the section from Windermere to the West Road Bridge needs to be cleaned up. He will be going to clean out some brush, as there is quite a bit of growth. Erin will bring cleanup supplies.

### B. Summer Public Hike at Balanced Boulder – 7/8, 10:00am

Since the Balanced Boulder Trail is part of the Land Trust, the Committee will need to contact whoever is in charge of overseeing that particular property.

### C. Other

Lauren Desrocher would like to plan a night hike for some time in August. It has also been reported that the Metcalf Trail needs some weed-wacking. The Committee also would like to host a Jack-O-Lantern walk in October, which Lauren is open to working on and helping plan. Erin suggested combining it with the EVFD's Trunk-or-Treat event; this would be a good opportunity to potentially showcase the potential new trail project at Brookside Park. Local businesses could participate with having a vehicle present and/or providing themed pumpkins.

## VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Finance

Lois reported that as long as checks are made out to the Town of Ellington, the Committee gets a tax deduction.

#### B. Maintenance

The trail on the Batz Property should we walked to see if it needs to be blazed. There is a pothole at the Windermere property that will need to be filled in the near future.

#### C. Publicity/Community Reach-out

There is an upcoming hike at the Balanced Boulder property. A reminder will be sent out about both the West Road cleanup and the Balanced Boulder walk; there was also discussion about creating posters for the events, which would be placed at Town Hall, Hall Memorial Library, the Senior Center, schools, Big Y, etc.; these could include information for interested volunteers. Erin will make a draft copy to send to Carl at Ellington Printery. Bruce Dinnie suggested that an article about Trails Day go out for promotion purposes. Bob Tedford informed the Committee that July 6 is the deadline for groups to get their information in for the next newsletter printing. Cynthia will include the August events. Rachel Dearborn had a presentation on the existing trails and how they align with Ellington's property map.

#### D. Planning/Development

A question was asked about whether maps could be broken into sections for Ellington Town Trails and the Land Trust Trails, perhaps by color coding them. Vernon has contacted Bruce about obtaining copies of the Ellington Trails maps now that the towns are connected via trails and people are asking to see the connection. Rachel asked if the Committee could focus on the Ellington Trails and on the flipside add the State-owned and Land Trust map. The timeline for updating the maps is adding the Brookside Park path, Kimball Forest, Moser Farm Dairy Preserve and the Crystal Ridge Estates land this year.

Erin reported that Middle Road has a potential area to develop, but the Committee would need to find out the exact property lines to see who owns which land. Rachel wanted to stay away from that, as it is the land the Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation is looking to utilize. She recommends getting the Town Attorney's opinion for mapping out the legal rights to the trails.

### VII. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Farmers Market

It's free for the Committee to have a presence at the Farmers Market; they just need advance notice, and they will provide a centrally located spot. It would be a good venue for advertising the Committee's activity as well as selling t-shirts.

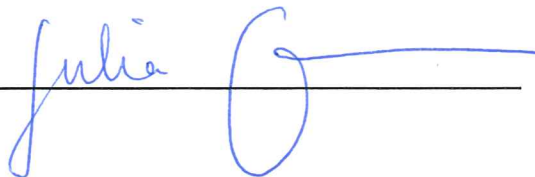
#### B. Raising Money for Brookside

The current thought is that the Committee will plan a thorough presentation to fund this project through Capital Improvements.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (DESROCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:30 PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia G.", is written over a horizontal line.

