



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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CHERI MURPHY
RECORDING SECRETARY

ERIN STAUVENS
CHAIRMAN

LAUREN DESROCHER
VICE CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
RACHEL DEARBORN
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
LINDA ANDERSON
JUDI MANFRE

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Heidi Hoffman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 11, 2018

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JULY 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trails Clean Up – 7/21

Erin Stavens found a basketball and a few toys and debris in the brush and in less visible sections of the YMCA/Windermere Trail. Linda Anderson asked if she should pick up a few “reachers” for 99 cents at the Mansfield Flea Market to make it easier to grab such items and debris.

B. Other

No other old business was discussed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Potential Work Day at Kimball Forest – 8/18

The cleanup was originally scheduled for the West Road Trail on the 18th, but Erin suggested relocating it to Kimball, which was agreed upon by the other Committee members. Linda will send out a mass email about the assistance with the bridges, with pictures of an example. She would like to give people a

date so they can plan and commit. Bruce Dinnie mentioned that having pruners would be helpful. Rachel Dearborn reminded the Committee that the Inland/Wetlands Agency meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13th at 7:00; Erin and Lauren Desrocher will represent the Committee at the meeting. Rachel stated that the Committee is asking permission for a permit to build bridges for Kimball.

B. Other

Bruce reported that there has been a lot of lobbying done for existing DEEP Trails Grants; current available grant money amounts to \$5,000,000. Applications are due October 31. The grants are specific, so Bruce will be looking into them in more detail. Linda asked if they would approve Kiosk Kits, which run approximately \$1,000 per unit. Bruce stated that he wasn't sure on what is included in the grants, so he will find out. This will be further discussed at the September meeting.

Erin mentioned a possible boardwalk to the Franklin Street Trail as a grant option. Rachel stated that right now, Franklin Street in Ellington is not town property, but she is looking into the property lines. Rachel stated that the Town is interested in connecting Dzen's to the YMCA, and potentially connected to the neighborhoods near Gasek Farms, as well. The current Open Space Fund has approximately \$600,000. An area of land would potentially need to be purchased, or the funds used to buy access to certain areas. Lois Timms-Ferrara asked who determines how the funds are distributed and who makes the decisions and what they take into account for the decisions. Lauren stated that the Committee could look at the Crystal Ridge area as a grant project, incorporating a good trail space (picnic area, tables, parking area, bridges, etc). The Committee should look at what has the most potential and what needs the most work. Bruce will ask Lori Spielman or Bob Tedford if they know anyone who can write the grant. Cynthia van Zelm offered to help review it, but doesn't have the time to write it.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Lois sold two t-shirts at the Farmers Market, for a total of five sold. There just hasn't been many opportunities for sales. The Committee is selling them for \$15 each. There are 57 left, ten of which are youth sizes. The Committee decided to start an incentive of "Buy one adult shirt for \$15 and get a youth shirt for \$10." Lois thinks the price and the color may be a small deterrent.

B. Maintenance

Linda took pictures of the kiosk at the suspension bridge. The Committee wouldn't provide materials if it is an Eagle Scout Project, as they provide their own fundraising and materials. Linda will ask the Girl Scouts about potential involvement, as well as make sure the Eagle Scouts provide any materials needed.

C. Publicity/Community Reach-out

Cynthia will be manning a table at the Farmers Market on September 12th; she will have the t-shirts, maps and the Committee banner. She asked for assistance; Linda will bring the table and a tablecloth for the event. Lois and Lauren are also planning to stop by. Lauren stated that she and Rachel re-designed the map a bit; the maps were made easier to read by removing non-Town properties and the property lines. Streets were left so the trails are easy to find. The Metcalf and Kimball properties will also be added. The land trusts will be listed, but there will be a separate link to those trails. Linda stated that

Tolland has a good, easy-to-read website for their trails. The Town website should contain info about the Town and land trust trails. Erin will email the First Selectman's Office about adding a trails tab/page to the Town website. Lauren reported that the Town will print the trails maps and brochures in color so that the Committee doesn't have to go through Carl at Ellington Printery. Lauren and Rachel stated that down the road there should be a training session on how to use the GPS equipment. The Brookside project and the Middle Road (T parcel) will be added to the map eventually.

Lois mentioned an article in the JI about bobcat collars breaking off; DEEP is asking the public to return them when they are found.

Cynthia submitted the article for the upcoming edition of the Town newsletter. Cynthia and Linda were discussing how to make the Trails Committee events more visible to the public. The Town currently sends out the Trails Press Releases.

D. Planning/Development

Lauren and Rachel got the GPS devices from Public Works and charted most of Kimball; they reported that it's a great trail. Linda is going to put out a general inquiry of interest to the Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts to supply materials and build a bridge. September 22 is the tentative grand opening date. Linda brought to the Committee's attention that the Sunset Hill hike is scheduled for that date and already printed in the newsletter. Since the two properties are close together, the Committee will plan the Grand Opening of Kimball directly after the Sunset Hill event.

Cynthia mentioned that December 22nd is the Winter Hike at West Road. It was brought up to Lauren that there is a need for a post for the main sign at Kimball. The "Ridge Loop," "Batz," and "Kimball" signs came out beautiful. The potential Moser project is being put on hold until January. Lauren and Rachel had an idea about a proposal for an Ellington Heritage Trail, which would highlight historical places around Town. People could drive around Town with a brochure and see the historical sites, with information about each one. This would be a long-term project the Committee will revisit down the road. Signage would need to be done with this project.

VII. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Prep for Jack-O-Lantern Walk/Trunk or Treat

Linda mentioned that the event needs a name; the committee decided "Trail of Treats." Linda went to Big Y and they are willing to set up a booth. Sunset is approximately 5:45pm in late October; Linda is planning on talking to Bob Tedford about the event taking place on Monday, October 29th, starting between 5:00 and 5:30, with a rain-date of Tuesday October 30th. Each organization that wants to set up a booth with need to provide their own Jack-o-lanterns and enough treats for at least 200 kids, and there shouldn't be anything too scary. The recommended age range will be 12 years old and younger, and the event will run between 5:00 and 7:00 pm or so; specific time details will be determined at the next meeting. Linda recommended having 15-20 booths total. So far, there has been one response from the Senior Center. Linda's list of who to reach out to includes PTOs, home schooler groups, Crystal Lake Fire Department, the Ellington Womens Club, Hall Memorial Library (Lois), Green Meadow Lawn (Nate Bahler), Ellington Dunkin Donuts (Cheri), Gerry's Donuts, Johnny Appleseed (Erin), Dzen's (Rachel), Ellington Agway (Erin), Kloters (Rachel), Luann's (Rachel), Anytime Fitness (Erin),

Homestead Fuel (Rachel), McDonalds (Linda), Cold Creek (Cheri), Green Meadow (Rachel), The Scoop (Erin), Rise Above (Cheri), Dymotek, Syn Mar, and the YMCA.

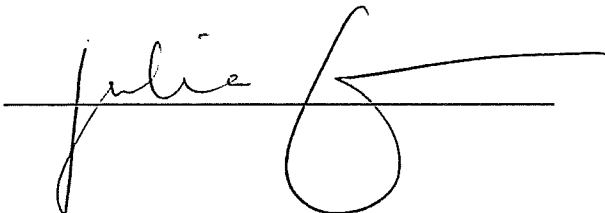
The main purpose of this event is to promote Brookside as a future trail location. Vendors must clean-up after themselves, and set up will be at a certain time. The trail will be lit; it was suggested that Earthlight be asked to help with the lighting.

Capital Improvements budgets are due December 1st. The Committee needs to figure out what is needed for the Brookside project to submit beforehand. Prior to the event, flyer should be created about detailing what the Committee's vision is for the area.

The Committee will meet at Brookside Park on August 18th at 9:00 am to walk the park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (DESROCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:29 PM.

Submitted by  _____