

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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ERIN STAVENS
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RACHEL DEARBORN
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
LINDA ANDERSON
JUDI MANFRE

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erin Stavens, Pam McCormick, Rachel Dearborn, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson, Judi Manfre, Cheri Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lauren Desrocher, Valerie Amsel, Cynthia van Zelm

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. CITIZENS FORUM

Tom Palshaw reported that the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving hands out grants for public purchases to 29 towns in Connecticut; they gave a presentation at Hall Memorial Library last week. He asked the representative from the Foundation about the types of grants that are provided and if they would potentially be applicable to the Trail Committee's projects. He stated that most of the trails-related projects would be applicable for the grants, such as expanding and enhancing trails and bridges, specifically with the Brookside Park Trail project.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 5, 2018

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Saturday, 9/22: "Autumn Public Hike" at Sunset Hill 10AM

Lois mentioned that the hike went well; two mothers brought their kids for it. She and Pam McCormick led the group around the trail three times, and the families were given trails t-shirts.

B. Farmer's Market Recap

It was decided that the Committee wouldn't attend the previous weekend's Farmers Market.

C. Other

There was no other discussion.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. National Fitness Campaign

Erin stated that the National Fitness Campaign's representative, Brian, had provided information about their outdoor gyms. The cost is \$120,000 and there may be a \$30,000 grant available. The gym is a 38 x 38 square foot pad with seven different stations; it has a twenty year lifespan and is made to withstand all weather conditions. Wolcott is looking into installing one of these; there are currently none of these gyms in the state. There is also an app that guides users on the equipment. It was mentioned that Cynthia Costanzo should be added to the email list so that she is aware of when the Trails meetings are, as she is a liaison from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

B. Trail of Treats

Linda Anderson reported that there are close to 40 confirmed sponsors. TSI Harley Davidson is going to decorate pumpkins, and Dzen's donated many pumpkins as well. A question was asked whether Jack-O-Lanterns would be placed between stations, and there was discussion on the best way to light the path. Ms. Stavens stated that she had possibly found an alternative to the lighting question, and Rachel Dearborn is planning on talking to Earthlight. Vendors and participants are not being charged; however, if this event continues in future years, some sort of donation may be required. The Committee would like to acquire glow sticks to hand out at the event. A special meeting will be needed later in the month to finalize some of these details. Ms. Anderson told the members that she needed the names and contact information for all of the vendors. The set-up will begin at 4:00 pm, though if a vendor needs more time they can arrive early. The event is scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm. It might be good to stake the plot numbers on Sunday, October 28. The information about the event will be distributed to local schools, the vendors, and daycare centers to get the word out. The Committee is going to check with Bob Tedford to see if Schaub Family Farm will be allowed to bring animals, as there is an insurance element to it.

**MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 AT 6:00 PM AT ELLINGTON TOWN
HALL TO FINALIZE THE TRAIL OF TREATS PLANNING**

C. Other

Erin made a rough draft of a calendar for 2019. Ms. Anderson mentioned holding a Wildflower Walk in the spring and possibly creating more educational walks next year. She is planning on attending and voting at the October 15 Town Meeting.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Lois Timms-Ferrara had stated last meeting that she wanted to define the Committee's budget and track both incoming and outgoing funds. She became aware that the Committee was given a \$4,000 budget this year, but no one was aware of it. She asked whether that money carries over from year to year or

not. Ms. Dearborn attended a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and provided basic maintenance information about the future potential Brookside Park Trail.

The conversation about creating a wish-list will be continued at the November regular meeting; however, more kiosks will definitely be needed at various locations.

B. Maintenance

Ms. Stavens stated that West Road was in pretty shape. There were mud bogs last week, but no damage was done.

C. Publicity/Community Reach-out

The new t-shirt design was reviewed and a few changes were discussed. Facebook has proven to be the most active form of publicity so far. There is a Trails tab on the Town website, with links to the different Trails maps. The winter months will be a good time to work on what the Committee would like to see included on the website.

D. Planning/Development

The Brookside Park Trail has been double-striped. The option to go along the road by the new t-ball field is still open, and Ms. Dearborn believes that Public Works would be willing to go along with that. Adding this perimeter would make the path 0.7 miles. Ms. Timms-Ferrara asked what the Committee's communication about the proposed trail should be at the Trail of Treats event.

VII. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Kimball Forest Updates

Judi Manfre, Valerie Amsel, Lauren Desrocher, and other volunteers attended the workday. Ms. Dearborn knows someone who would like to help with the second bridge, as soon as enough people can get together. It was noted that Jason Kloter was very helpful in allowing the Committee to drive through his property instead of carrying the lumber for the bridge; they will provide t-shirts as a thank you.

B. Grant Opportunities

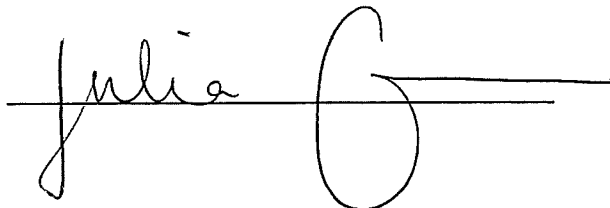
In terms of the DEEP Grant Program, Ms. Anderson stated that in looking over the grants that were awarded last year, the Committee should keep their goals vague. One of the previous winning grants requested funds "to improve trail access for all abilities."

Ms. Stavens recommended attaching the potential sensory trail somewhere connected to the potential future Jacob Roger Poulin Park, as it will draw young children.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:52 PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia G.", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized letter 'G' at the end.

