



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

CHERI MURPHY
RECORDING SECRETARY

ERIN STAVENS
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
November 7, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Hall

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Erin Stavens called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM: No one came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (DESROCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 3, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (DESROCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 17, 2018 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Trail of Treats

The idea of thank-you notes for all of the vendors was brought up. Miss Stavens suggested that the Committee create a template that all of the members can sign, and have notes personalized from that template. Linda Anderson and the other members reviewed the list of recipients. They will work with Carl from Ellington Printery to get what they need. Miss Stavens, Ms. Anderson and Lauren Desrocher spoke about the positive feedback they received from the event.

B. Other

There was no other discussion.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignation of Present Chairman

Miss Stavens announced that she has to step down as Chairman. She will still stay on as a full -time Committee member. She will hand in an official letter to Lori Spielman. She would like to be the Social Media Coordinator, as part of the Publicity subcommittee.

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (MURPHY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ERIN STAVENS AS CHAIRMAN.

B. Appointment of New Chairman

Vice Chairman Desrocher asked for nominations from the floor. Cynthia van Zelm nominated Ms. Desrocher as Chairman and Ms. Anderson seconded the nomination. Vice Chairman Desrocher put it to a vote.

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT LAUREN DESROCHER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE.

Chairman Desrocher asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chairman. Ms. Anderson nominated Rachel Dearborn as Vice Chairman and Miss Stavens seconded the nomination. Chairman Desrocher put it to a vote.

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT RACHEL DEARBORN AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE.

C. Appointment of Social Media Coordinator

Chairman Desrocher nominated Miss Stavens as Social Media Coordinator; however, this would not be an appointed position. Miss Stavens will still be responsible for the Committee's social media presence.

D. 2019 Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule maintains the 2018 schedule's pattern of holding a meeting on the first Wednesday of each month [ATTACHED].

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

E. Other

Lois Timms-Ferrara asked for receipts from any purchases made for the Trails for Treats event or any other trails items we have posted. The Committee has a receipt to pay the officer who was on duty at the Trails for Treats event. Ms. Timms-Ferrara would prefer that all receipts be turned in and signed by her.

Miss Stavens spoke about whether or not the Committee wants to incorporate the National Fitness Campaign's outdoor exercise equipment into future proposed projects. It was agreed that right now is not the best timing for this project. Ms. Dearborn stated that the Committee has not been cleared by Public Works to have this completed at this time; they have expressed a desire to see a utilized path to prove that people are using it before they do anything additionally. The Committee members have also heard conversations about the potential for the Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation project being relocated to Brookside Park. Ms. Dearborn stated that the Committee can write a request to Public Works detailing their intentions for future discussion. Miss Stavens asked that if the Committee was not going to use the Brookside Trail as their Capital Improvements request, is there another project they would prefer to follow up on? Ms. van Zelm inquired about putting the Brookside project in for Capital Improvements, so it isn't forgotten about. The Committee agreed to keep it in the forefront.

Bruce Dinnie mentioned that the Rails for Trails in Vernon has been there for quite a while, and stated that despite the "if you build it they will come" mentality, paths that are officially established are more utilized. The Committee doesn't mind it being incorporated into a future Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation project.

Ms. Desrocher's recommendation after this discussion was to table moving forward with a Capital Improvements request at this time and to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to get a better sense of what projects are being discussed. Ms. Dearborn pointed out that the Committee can ask the appropriate individual(s) about whether they need to fill out and request a capital improvements project every year. Miss Stavens stated that the Committee can simply send an email to the First Selectman's Office mentioning that they do not need to apply for capital improvements at this point.

The Committee should brainstorm how to spend the \$4,000 allocated in the budget, as it needs to be used by July 1. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is November 14 at Arbor Commons. Lauren will check to see if it would be beneficial for any Committee members to attend.

Regarding the Metcalf property, it was reported by resident Tanya Engler that an individual living on Cedarwood Drive is dumping all of his leaves on the path. Members of the Committee could try to facilitate a discussion to find some common ground, as well as see if Public Works would be willing to help with cleanup. Ms. McCormick asked if the Committee could spray some type of weed killer on the gravel pathway for all of the weeds popping up.

VI. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Grand Opening – Kimball Forest

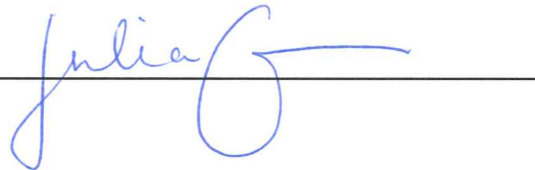
Ms. Desrocher stated that the grand opening is scheduled for Friday, 10:00 am on November 23rd. Eric Zurawek, who built the Metcalf kiosk for the Committee, was still working on this kiosk for Kimball Forest; supplies were delivered to him today. Ms. Timms-Ferrara has the receipts for the supplies; Mr. Zurawek generously donated the labor. He would like to have a sign, preferably on the kiosk, saying it was donated by him and his family. Ms. Dearborn or Miss Stavens will "call before [they] dig." The bridge build will take place on Friday morning. Mr. Dinnie and a friend of his will be building the bridge. He welcomed anyone to join; however, they should be all set with the project. Ms. Dearborn,

along with members of the Conservation Commission, brought the materials down. The Committee would like to t-shirts to those who have assisted with this project. Mr. Dinnie will be there by 9:20 am on Friday. The Committee would eventually like to see Trap Rock placed under the bridge so the bridge is not sitting directly on the ground, per recommendation of the Conservation Commission. This will extend the life of the bridge. One Ms. Desrocher provides the necessary information, Ms. Timms-Ferrara can get the brochures printed up; the Committee already has the GPS Map. Some leaves may need to be cleared before the event. Anytime Fitness may be present at the event, and possible can supply hot chocolate. Ms. Dearborn invited the neighbors in the area, who should also be put on the thank you list. Ms. van Zelm will provide the First Selectman's Office with a press release to be sent out. The hike is suitable for ages 5 and up, and carpooling is being recommended due to limited parking.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:25 PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia G.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.