



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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

LAUREN DESROCHER  
CHAIRMAN

RACHEL DEARBORN  
VICE CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL  
PAM MCCORMICK  
ERIN STAVENS  
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA  
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM  
LINDA ANDERSON  
JUDI MANFRE  
ANN MCLAUGHLIN

AD HOC ELLINGTON  
TRAILS COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2020  
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher, Rachel Dearborn, Linda Anderson, Ann McLaughlin, Valerie Amsel, Erin Stavens, Cynthia van Zelm, Pam McCormick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lois Timms-Ferrara, Judi Manfre

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### II. CITIZENS FORUM: None

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Acknowledgement of 2019 Accomplishments

Chairman Desrocher entered the 2019 Accomplishment document into the record [ATTACHED]. No changes were made. The Committee unanimously agreed to create a full document listing the Committee's accomplishments since inception in 2020. Ms. Desrocher asked that Erin Stavens create a Facebook post including the Accomplishments document with accompanying images.

#### B. Assignment of Members to Education Subcommittee

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ASSIGN LINDA ANDERSON AND LAUREN DESROCHER TO THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE.

Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee reconsider and reappoint members to all sub-committees at the March meeting, as Ms. McLaughlin has not yet been appointed to any and others may currently find themselves overburdened.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Proposed Educational Programming Budget

Vice Chairman Dearborn, Ms. Anderson and Chairman Desrocher remarked that it would be appropriate to create a new budget line-item to make transparent the costs associated with the Committee's educational programming. This would also enable the Education Sub-committee to schedule programming without requiring a committee vote for each event.

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$600 ANNUALLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING.

### B. Proposed Bridge/Step Improvements

Mr. Dinnie described the non-slip treads used at the Vernon suspension bridge and reviewed the quote of \$550 for three dozen of this item. Chairman Desrocher remarked that there would be multiple uses for the treads and that the Hockanum River Committee may also benefit from the purchase. Ms. Amsel reminded the Committee that the Town's Recreation Director had indicated in November that the Town insurance company intended to have a representative walk each trail and make recommendations. The Committee has not heard any further information on this. Chairman Desrocher will reach out to Mr. Huguenin for an update. The vote regarding the prospective purchase of treads has been tabled until further information can be gleaned from the Town.

### C. Acceptance of 2020 Event Calendar

Ms. Anderson and Ms. van Zelm reviewed the calendar with the Committee. Ms. Amsel voiced concern that the proposed Raptor event may be too costly for an event which is offered regularly in neighboring towns and that 2019's events were successful and offered a diverse span of experiences. Ms. Anderson remarked that she plans to approach the Hall Memorial Library regarding a partnership on the Raptor program and other possible educational events and will report back to the committee with more defined dates and costs later in the month. The vote for this agenda item has been tabled until the March 2020 meeting.

## VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Planning & Development

Vice Chairman Dearborn delivered a high-level review of continuing projects for 2020, including the completion and opening of the Moser Property Trails, the completion and opening of the Kimball Forest extension and connection to the Connecticut Forest & Parks' blue-blazed Shenipsit Trail, the extended closure of the Metcalf Nature Preserves due to on-going struggles with storm clean-up, and the potential use of Eversource right-of-ways to create a 4-mile trail abutting East Windsor.

Ms. Stavens announced that Barber Utilities will be donating all needed materials for completion of the Brookside Mile walking path in concert with Public Works. Ms. Dearborn will follow up with Tim Webb to make sure that the existing trail line continues to be painted until the project is underway.

### B. Community Outreach

Ms. Anderson and Ms. van Zelm discussed the need for trail maps to be accessible via social media as there is no current timeline for improvements to the Town's website. Ms. Stavens will create a pinned post on Facebook to highlight a trail map every month.

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel reviewed their visit to a recent Connecticut Greenways meeting where they became aware of the Eversource project underway in South and East Windsor. Ms. Anderson will continue to attend these meetings when possible.

Ms. Anderson related her research into possible grant opportunities via Sustainable Connecticut and similar programs which may allow the Committee to move forward on improvements at the Batz Property, including a proposed "amphitheater" for outdoor educational programming and a "pollinator path."

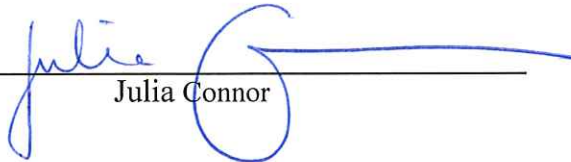
Ms. van Zelm will sign the Committee up for its third Connecticut Trails Day event to be held June 6 at Kimball Forest and will highlight the grand opening of the extension and connection to the Shenipsit Trail.

The Committee expressed disappointment and will no longer pursue the previously discussed "power equipment" training offered by Public Works, as the Committee has learned that this training would be exclusive to the use of a weed-cutting apparatus which would not be relevant to the trails on Town property.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:16 PM.

Submitted by

  
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Julia Connor

# Fw: Ellington Trails Committee 2019 Accomplishments

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**From:** andylin49@earthlink.net  
**To:** "andylin49@earthlink.net"  
**Subject:** Fw: Ellington Trails Committee 2019 Accomplishments  
**Date:** Feb 3, 2020 6:30 PM

Agenda Item # IV. A

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Subject: Ellington Trails Committee 2019 Accomplishments

1. To increase our exposure, set up tables at Town of Ellington's Earth Day event (April 27th) and the Ellington Farmers Market (August 31st). Handed out maps, answered questions, gave out flyers on our upcoming events and collected emails from those interested in getting updates from the Trails Committee.
2. Had a Girl Scout hike and clean-up on Metcalf to celebrate Earth Day (April 27th).
3. Participated and hosted at Kimball a hike celebrating National Trails Day (June 1st). We had 28 hikers.
4. Hosted the Ellington Cub Scouts Pack 77 on a guided hike at Kimball (June 8th).
5. Decide to be Kind helped clean brush on the upper Batz Trail to make it passable on June 22nd. Boy Scouts Pack 96 also did clean-up work on June 16th.
6. We appointed 3 Stewards- Emily Boone for Kimball, David Bidwell for Moser (opening in 2020) and Metcalf- Tanya Engler.
7. The Kimball Ridge Loop Trail was GPS's, cleaned, blazed, and 2 bridges built and installed with the help of Big Y. This trail will be completely finished by Spring 2020.
8. Continued work has been done on developing a trail system for the Moser property off of Stein Rd. Planned opening 2020.
9. We have printed a new map with the Kimball Ridge Loop Trail and the Brookside mile added. These maps and the individual trail maps were supplied to the Hall Memorial library and Kiosk's through out the year.
10. Instituted a Summer Outdoor Co-Op Exploration Camp for children between ages of 6-12. It was every Wednesday, 9-11am from June 19th-August 14th at the Batz property.
11. Planned 4 Educational Walks-  
Bird Watching which unfortunately had to be canceled twice because of bad weather.  
Botanical Walk- August 21st- 20 attendee's  
Astronomy Society of Ct. exploring the skies and Moonlight walk, August 15th- over 70 attendee's.  
Fungi of the Forest- Intro to Fungi and Mushrooms, Sept. 14th- 24 attendees
12. Held our 2nd Trail of Treats on the Brookside Mile on October 28th. 50 Vendors, 1,200 children, over 3,000 in attendance. Collected 700 lbs of food for the Cyrstal Lake Food Bank and again promoted the Trails's Committee.
13. We have collected close to 200 emails from residents and non residents who are interested in our events. Our Facebook has 976 followers.

These are our 2018 Goals that were not accomplished.

1. Improve Kayak accessibility
2. Appoint a Steward for Batz
3. Improve Town Wed site- this is outside our scope. In Town's hands.
4. Emergency GPS Coordinates for Town Trails