

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

CHERI MURPHY
RECORDING SECRETARY

LAUREN DESROCHER
CHAIRMAN

RACHEL DEARBORN
VICE CHAIRMAN

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

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Hall

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judi Manfre

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lauren Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM: NONE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trail of Treats

1. 2019 Event Decision

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED [AYE: AMSEL, STAVENS, ANDERSON, DEARBORN, DESROCHER, MURPHY, VAN ZELM; NAY: MCCORMICK, TIMMS-FERRARA] TO CONTINUE THE TRAIL OF TREATS EVENT IN 2019.

2. Discussion of Potential Changes

The Committee members agreed that the Trail of Treats event could be organized by a subcommittee.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reassessment of Subcommittee Designations

Mrs. Desrocher expressed a desire to revisit what the Committee's main focuses should be, between group and individual goals. Erin Stavens stated that she would like to see more community involvement this upcoming year; perhaps a start could be by building up the volunteer base and looking to create more opportunities for volunteers. Linda Anderson agreed with creating more community interaction, as well as focusing on development.

There is still more that can be developed in terms of trails and events. Pam McCormick's viewpoint is that the Committee may have lost focus on things like upkeep of trails and the initial plans for the members. Valerie Amsel would like to continue to work on trails. There is an established list of volunteers that can be contacted whenever there is an event that needs volunteers. Cheri Murphy stated she will help out in whatever way possible and also that her focus is on the Brookside Park walking trail development.

Mrs. Desrocher commented that when the Committee was first established, members went to each trail to evaluate them and began discussions of what work was needed on each trail. There may have been a loss of communication of when members are going to the trails; some people may not be comfortable being on the trail alone.

The question of having a "steward" for each trail was brought up; this individual would be responsible for walking their assigned trail once a month and reporting back to the Committee with updates. The Windermere trail may need to be reblazed.

Saturday mornings may be the best time for members to get on a once-a-month regular schedule for walking a trail as a Committee. The Batz Property needs some attention; the kiosk needs repairs and the trail needs to be cleaned up. Mrs. Desrocher suggested perhaps reaching out to other Town groups and entities to host events together. For example, they could involve the Senior Center and host a Veterans Walk, or partner with a Cub Scout pack and have an astrology event.

In terms of the existing subcommittees, the consensus was to keep Maintenance, Planning and Development, and Community Outreach and Publicity. Ms. Timms-Ferrara will remain the Treasurer, but there isn't a need for a Finance Subcommittee. A new Trails of Treats subcommittee will also be established, with member designations below.

Maintenance: Ms. Amsel, Ms. Anderson (Chair), Ms. McCormick

Planning and Development: Ms. Dearborn (Chair), Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Desrocher

Trail of Treats: Ms. Anderson (Chair), Mrs. Murphy

Community Outreach and Publicity: Ms. van Zelm (Chair), Ms. Anderson, Miss Stavens

B. Discussion: Getting to Know Our Properties & Improving Communications

Ms. Anderson spoke with Miss Connor in the First Selectman's Office about getting a tab on the Town website with more information.

Not all committee members need to be present for each hike; however, perhaps sending a group email beforehand to see who is available to join would be a good plan.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Finance

Ms. Timms-Ferrara, Treasurer, spoke with Felicia LaPlante, Acting Finance Director, and a budget will be submitted. Certain things will be line items; however, not everything can be assigned a specific amount, and things may vastly differ from year to year.

B. Maintenance

Ms. McCormick asked the Department of Public Works about filling in the divot in the parking area at the Windermere trail. It fills up with water when it rains and it is difficult to turn around. The divot is near the kiosk. She has not heard back.

C. Publicity/Community Reach-Out

An event calendar for 2019 has been established. Miss Stavens asked if the Committee was planning on hosting seasonal hikes. Mrs. Desrocher responded that the planned event hikes naturally occur seasonally. Ms. van Zelm stated that the Committee is trying to have an event taking place each month.

Ms. Anderson contacted the CT Astronomy of Greater Hartford; on August 15, there will be a sunset from 7:51-9:36 pm. Their club could set up telescopes and encourage the public to bring their own telescopes and binoculars. There would be a discussion on the moon, Jupiter and Saturn. A moonlight hike, beginning around 7:00 pm, could take place as well as the lecture. The best viewing times would be between 7:51-9:36 pm, and there is no minimum amount of people to attend.

The Committee decided to pick a date in March to walk through the Batz Property to establish what needs attention.

Ms. van Zelm will find out the details of this year's Earth Day event.

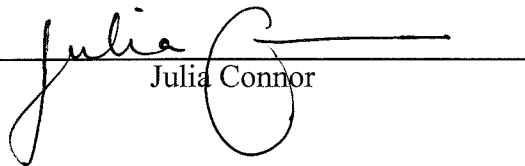
D. Planning/Developing

There was no discussion.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:26 PM.

Submitted by


Julia Connor