



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
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  
August 7, 2019  
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Dearborn, Valerie Amsel, Judi Manfre, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Pam McCormick, Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheri Murphy, Erin Stavens, Lauren Desrocher

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Dustin Huguenin, Tom Palshaw, Ann McLaughlin, Holly Brunette

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Rachel Dearborn called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. CITIZENS FORUM:** Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street, followed up with the Committee on two questions. First, he brought up the topic of using power equipment to help with trail maintenance, specifically a DR trimmer. He has talked to Conservation Commission and they have referred the questions to Board of Selectman. Mr. Palshaw will report back with the results. The second question was about the Windermere Trail, from Route 83 to Lower Butcher Road, being on the trail maps. He has a map that shows it but was unsure if it was still there. Vice Chairman Dearborn responded that the trail has been removed from the Trails map until an easement is secured on the private property. The Town Planning and Zoning Department is currently working on easement language and documents for another portion of trail, and hopefully the Committee can use those documents to help secure trail easements on other private land. Mr. Palshaw also mentioned that the Hockanum River Committee were given some planks of wood and do not have a use for them right now, so they would like to donate them to the Trails Committee. Vice Chairman Dearborn stated that she had been at Public Works earlier today and there is a full pallet of 12' Trex boards. She will go back and count how many planks there are total and see if they can be used for bridge decking.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Anderson pointed out that the dates are reversed under the Boy Scouts cleanup at Batz. It should read: The Boy Scout cleanup at Batz has been cancelled for June 15<sup>th</sup>, and rescheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm.

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2019 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Anderson extended congratulations to Lauren Desrocher for the winning the 2019 CT Trails Day Photo Contest. Chairman Desrocher had submitted photos to Connecticut Forest and Parks Association of the walk at Kimball Forest on Trails Day. The winning photo highlighted a lady slipper found on the trail that day with hikers in the background. Congratulations, Lauren!

##### A. Committee Vacancy

We are still waiting on an official resignation letter from Cheri Murphy. Ann McLaughlin is interested in joining the committee. She has joined hikes a few times and enjoys working outdoors. She has completed the appropriate forms and can fill the position once it is available.

The position of secretary is still open. No one has volunteered. It was suggested that those responsibilities could be rotated among the members.

##### B. Batz Property Updates

###### 1. Current Use of Property

Vice Chairman Dearborn and Ms. Anderson described the current Education Co-Op Program that has been running this summer at the Batz Property. The program is currently supported by the Parks and Rec Department and runs weekly for the duration of the summer with a different theme each week. Some of the themes have been compass reading, garden vegetables, foraging, scavenger hunt, tree identification, shelter building and camping. The kids that have come to this program have been very engaged in learning and have loved the activities. The Committee members who have been involved are hoping that through this program, an expanded future will be generated for the Committee.

###### 2. Educational Opportunities

The question was posed as to whether or not the Trails Committee would like to create a subcommittee for Education that would help support this program as well as other education walks and programs that have been offered this year; this will be discussed further in September.

The question of who is supposed to maintain the outhouses in the field was discussed. Valerie Amsel fixed the door the last time she was there. The outhouses could use some repair and cleaning. Dustin Huguenin will see if one of the Boy Scouts will add that to their project.

Judi Manfre reported that the Little Library project is moving forward. It will be built by Stu Lanz; CD Builders will be supplying the plywood and Kathryn Lanz has agreed to donate her time to paint it. A stake near the Children's Garden marks the location for the Little Library at Batz.

##### C. Farmers' Market Table

Cynthia van Zelm will be setting up a table at the Farmers Market on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Ms. Anderson will make sure that she has the table, canopy, flyers and maps for the day. Pam McCormick is also planning on attending to help Cynthia. Ms. Amsel and Vice Chairman Dearborn will stop by to help if possible.

##### D. Moonlight Walk Assignments

Ms. Anderson stated that there are 14 people registered for the Moonlight Walk on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. She is anticipating 30 plus people. She will be setting up a table with information and solar lights to help get people to the trail. She will also bring the glow bracelets for people to wear, especially while hiking. She would like everyone to collect fireflies for the event if possible. Ms. Anderson and Ms. McCormick will be marking the trail with orange flagging this Friday to help everyone navigate the trail at night. Chairman Desrocher and Ms. van Zelm are both signed up to attend and help that night.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Big Y Community Service Day

Big Y has signed up to participate in the Trail of Treats event. Instead of donating money, they would like to volunteer hours to work on trails. Ms. Anderson thinks that they will have 5-10 people who could help with clearing trails, building bridges and carrying lumber. She and Vice Chairman Dearborn thought that Kimball may be a great spot for these volunteers. There is an extension of the trail that needs to be cleared and there are two bridges to build. Bruce Dinnie and Ms. Amsel have built the other two bridges at Kimball and will assist Big Y volunteers in building two more bridges. Vice Chairman Dearborn will help get the lumber cut to length and assist in getting it to the site. This project should be set up for two days; one for hauling lumber to the site and the other for building bridges and clearing trail. Ms. Anderson will help coordinate volunteer days with Big Y.

## VI. Sub-Committee Reports

### A. Treasurer:

Lois Timms-Ferrara reported that last year, the Committee's expenses were around \$6,100. This year, their budget is \$8,000. Ms. Timms-Ferrara requested that members get expenditures to her on a monthly basis. She also reported that the Trail of Treats money is a separate account and if necessary it can be rolled over to the next year. She said that the Finance Department will help us make purchases and they have accounts with Staples, Walmart and Amazon. They can also make checks out to individual or private companies if they are given an invoice and a W-9. Gail Moran or Patti Choiniere in the Finance Department can answer further questions.

### B. Planning & Development:

Vice Chairman Dearborn reported that the Brookside Mile is exactly one mile and is painted with a single white line. It should be walked as much as possible to encourage activity on the trail. The Committee discussed changing the name of the trail due to the name of the park changing. Mr. Huguenin informed the group that the plans are to change the name of the park to the Robert Tedford Memorial Park at a formal ceremony on October 26, 2019. A new name of the mile-long trail can be discussed and potentially voted on at the next meeting; once the name is chosen, a sign can be ordered to attract people to the trail.

A request was made to create and install a sign for the Windermere Trail to welcome people to Ellington. It should include both the Trails logo and Town logo.

There was a general consensus that the Committee should pursue a DEEP grant for improvements on the Batz Property. Chairman Desrocher has a list of improvements the Committee wants to pursue.

### C. Maintenance:

Ms. Amsel reported that they were able to complete an additional loop trail at Batz with the volunteers in June. One volunteer in particular enjoyed it so much he has offered to help us clear more trails.

Ms. Anderson got a message from a volunteer group looking to do trash clean up on the trails in Ellington. She will forward the information to Ms. Amsel. The recommendation will be that they take a look at the Kimball property where a culvert on Route 140 runs onto the property. It was also suggested that the Committee ask the Town to install a wire fence near the culvert to help catch some of the trash.

There was no report on the other trails at this time.

Ms. Anderson has requested that there be first aid kits available during trail walks and maintenance. Mr. Huguenin said he has some and can supply those to the Committee.

D. Community Outreach:

Ms. van Zelm reported that she sent out the Moonlight Walk information. She also submitted the article that was written for the Ellington Connection magazine. Ms. Anderson reported that the Committee will have a TV spot in October with First Selectman Spielman discussing community news, and Chairman Desrocher will be meeting with her to highlight the Trails Committee.

E. Botanical Walk

Ms. Anderson reported that the Botanical Walk rcheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> was cancelled and is rescheduled for Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am.

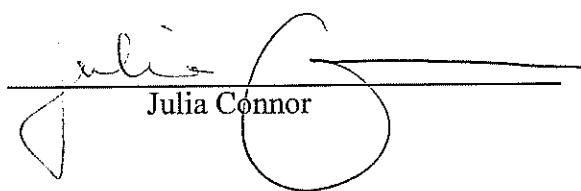
F. Trail of Treats:

Ms. Anderson reported that the invitation and sign up information to attend the 2019 Trail of Treats was handed out to 54 businesses. Two forms have been returned from business that are not interested, but the majority of businesses are very interested and several have already sent in their forms and donations. Ms. Anderson will be requesting additional police presence at the event due to recent incidences with large crowds around the country. She is currently trying to secure help from the fire department to direct parking for the event.

There is a coordination meeting with the Town coming up in September.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED (MCCORMICK), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Submitted by  \_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Connor