

Jeannie Connolly

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Ron King.

In September, the staff of Francestown Elementary School asked if I could help them find a landscape architect to implement a garden path project. I had recently met Ron at a New Hampshire State Council on the Arts conference and thought he might be just the right person for the project.

Francestown Elementary School had been working with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department on "Project Home," a program designed to enhance the beauty and learning opportunities of their schoolyard. This year they wanted to build a path through some existing gardens and to make the garden area accessible as an "outdoor classroom." After meeting with the staff, Ron came up with the idea for a series of "pocket paths" which would run through the space and offer a number of intimate, interesting destinations for recreation, relaxation, and reflection.

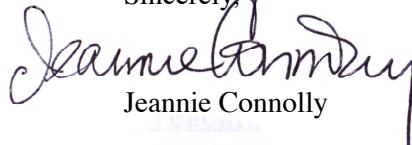
Ron gave the staff members and the students an introduction to the "design process" and facilitated brainstorming sessions aimed at coming up with design elements for the pocket paths. Through every step of the project, he included teachers and students. He made sure that everyone felt that they had contributed to the project from its inception through its completion. His communication skills were outstanding. He offered teachers ideas for curriculum integration and worked with art teachers on 3-D design projects so that the children would have a way to express their ideas.

He spent long hours (many more than he was paid for!) designing a plan which incorporated the ideas of the staff, parents, and students. The plan went through many changes, which he made cheerfully. He never stopped encouraging feedback even though feedback usually meant more work for him. He made lists of supplies, helped to order them, and made countless trips to Home Depot to check on the quality of the materials.

He also showed great strength in rallying the volunteers, students, and staff members who helped build the pocket paths. He contributed the use of his tools and patiently taught people how to use them. Again, through the building process, he put in many more hours than our contract had called for...and he always did it with a smile on his face.

I would highly recommend Ron to any school or organization. It was a pleasure to work with Ron on the "Pocket Path" project and I will look forward to working with him again on projects in the future. Please feel free to call me if I can answer any further questions.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Connolly