

**Approved Meeting Minutes – Shelton Trails Committee
Special Meeting**

Wednesday 10/7/09, 5:00pm, City Hall, Room 303

Minutes prepared by Terrance Gallagher 926-9572

Any questions, contact Bill Dyer, Trails Committee Chairman, 668-8707

Submitted to Trail Com., Cons Com., City Clerk & Webmaster for legal posting requirements: October 27, 2009

Attending: Terrance Gallagher, Bill Dyer, Bob Wilkins, Sheri Dutkanicz, Jim Taradine, Lynn Reid. Absent: Andy Cable & Peter Conway. Also attending was Cliff Albright.

Start Time: 5:00 P.M. – we started earlier to give ourselves more time with scheduling work parties & guided hikes.

1. Minutes from September meeting approval. The **minutes were approved 6-0-0** with the addition of Jim as attending.
2. Shelton Day – Results Everybody thought that the Day was a good success, we had a lot of walk up customers all day, answered questions, handed out a lot of maps and other information, and got some potential volunteers (11) to sign up for trail work parties. The props and booth location were good & we should do that again next year. Lynn asked Terry to type up some of the e-mail addresses to make it easier for her to add to volunteers list.
3. Planned Rec Path Projects for 2009
 - a. Phase 3a & b – Jim Swift contract documents complete
 - i. Inland Wetlands Application – Bill said that the Inland Wetlands meeting is tomorrow night & that John Cook had some staff comments. Since we started early Bill was able to walk over and get John to talk to us for a couple of minutes. John thought that there were three areas where the trail might be shifted slightly uphill to minimize wetland impacts; at Lizardhead Rock near Scotch Pine Rd. (Bill talked about issues with boulder field), along Crabapple Drive, and at knoll at last residential house (this is where we are proposing to path at the bottom of the knoll to give a buffer to the house lot that was clearcut). We talked about issues with meandering & retaining walls. John liked the 350 l.f. of boardwalk proposed in the swamp going out to the powerlines & thought it would be a good feature. There was also a question about construction access. We said that it would be off Wesley & Crabapple for now – with possibly a secondary access from Buddington Road via existing woods roads.
 - ii. Plans for competitive bid package – Bill wants to proceed with bid packages using the permitting documents. Terry thinks that we need field survey & better details to come up with competitive bids. This stretch will be much more challenging than Phase 1 due to the wetlands and earthwork. Terry said that this isn't a stretch where you can just wing it in the field & things will work out. We had a lot of discussion on pros & cons of better plans. Bill suggested that Terry talk to the Conservation Commission about the funding for the field survey.

- b. Phase 1: Maintenance issues? – We discussed wash out repair by the Wheeler St access gate, and cutting brush along the RecPath out to Meadow St. Rich felt that these were smaller tasks that could be done by one or two people and didn't require a full work party.
- c. Phase 2: Relocate to avoid large trees, dip and sharp turns – we discussed scheduling a work party for this – see below.
- d. Phase 3c:
 - i. Plan and schedule status for Mucci Construction contract – Bill reported that Barry Mucci is ready to start following cutting of trees by Shelton Parks & Rec. Dean from Parks & Rec. Dept. was OK with cutting three trees but was leery of cutting down one tree due to proximity of adjacent house near property line. This may be an area where the City has to hire a tree company to climb the tree and take it down. TrailCom members were going to look at this individually. We discussed drainage at low points & Bill asked Terry to buy pipe directly and get reimbursed. Bill will get filter fabric out of the Barn & give to Barry.
 - ii. Erosion and side growth through the meadow – briefly discussed.
 - iii. Plan route to top of Lane Street and cut trees – not discussed.

4. Other 2009 Planned Trail Projects

- a. Connect Blue Dot Trail to Shelton Lakes – Meeting with Mayor – Status/plan – we discussed the results of the September 23rd meeting with the Mayor, 2 aldermen, and 7 Mayflower residents. The Mayflower residents want the trail to go anywhere but their street. Bill & Sherri did what the Mayor asked them to do & met with Charlie & Laura Markit on Sat. 10/02, about putting the trail thru their property to the South of Mayflower. Bill said that they were very nice folks but they didn't want people walking on their property & were not receptive to the Mayor's suggestion about purchasing development rights or outright open space purchase of their property. The Markit's actually said why doesn't the City use the open space along Mayflower Drive. Bill will write up a letter recapping the meeting & send it to the Markit's, Mayor, & Cons. Com. We're not sure what the next step is but it will probably be after the elections. The Mayflower people will probably want us to approach the Sinsebaugh Heights residents next about going up that driveway, but nobody on Trails likes that idea of going up extra distance up a long paved driveway past dumpsters through a housing project.
- b. Bill noted that the Mayor was supposed to be meeting with one of the Bures today about the possible RecPath ROW purchase.
- c. Dog Park status – Bill had a preliminary plan that was drawn up by the Engineering Dept. which we reviewed. Everybody thought that 30 spaces was too much parking (probably 12 is more realistic). Rich was concerned about three parking spaces in front of the Barn doors blocking access. Terry said the white garage was junk and could be taken down. The dog park will be on the November Board of Aldermen's agenda and on the Parks & Rec agenda for the 3rd Thursday in October.

- d. Red Barn Tools and Gator Storage – Security – Rich discussed upgrades & interior clean up status.
 - e. Repair/re-point the sides of the Silent Waters Dam – Quotes and funding – nothing.
 - f. Trail enhancement efforts in 2009 – Trails and/or Scouts
 - i. Trail from Independence Drive to Turkey Trot Trail –nothing
 - ii. Boehm Pond Trail needs some work – Leaf blow before hike – we discussed preparations for hike. We discussed ATV impact on trails & Cliff noted that ATV's are coming in from one house on Winthrop Woods Road – Lynn gave him the name of the police officer that we have been working with on ATV enforcement so Cliff can relay the information.
 - iii. Trail from Independence to Wellington Ct. – Dean – we discussed connecting the dots on the two sections of trail that Dean had mowed before the tractor got bogged down.
 - iv. Future Scout project ideas, both Eagle and Troop Service
 - g. Gates and fences required – ?? – Rich wants to do a permanent fix to the Abby Wright parking lot gate. Terry suggested putting in bolts above the top of the pins so the leaves can't be lifted off easily.
 - h. Trails Maintenance – Kiosk Damage? – nothing for kiosks – there was more damage to Harriet's bench at the Lane St. meadow & we discussed possible fixes, but we have to bounce this off the Land Trust folks.
5. DEP Trails Grant – Status – nothing.
6. Guided Hikes – Scheduled during meeting – Publicity
- a. October – Boehm Pond Trail – this hike is scheduled for **10/17/09 at 3:00**
 - b. November – If and where/when – **11/29/09 Sunday Tahmore Loop at 1:00.** Leaves may be slippery – touch base with the Land Trust folks.
 - c. December – If and where/when – **12/29/09 Tuesday Nells Rock Trail at 2:00.** Abby Wright property should be good for families with kids off during school break.
7. Potential Work Party – Schedule during meeting
- a. More work at Bluff Walk/Riverview – nothing for now – the recent public hike was a good success.
 - b. Additional work improving Turkey Trot for Cross Country Meets – nothing now.

- c. Flag out and clear the Blue Dot Trail through Waicek and Indian Well SP – discussion of future work but nothing scheduled.
- d. Relocate Phase 2 and tree removal for widening – the **next work party is scheduled for 10/10/09 at 8:30** – meet at the White House parking lot off Nells Rock Road.
- e. Other? **Well Spring Estates - clear out Far Mill trail at back of condos – Halloween 10/31/09 at 8:30.** This is a follow-up from the people that came up to the booth at Shelton Day complaining about how the trail in the public access area were overgrown there & who wanted to work to clear them up.
- f. NEMBA guy – Terry asked about the suggested trail improvements by the representative of the mountain biking association on Turkey Trot, Dominick, and Oak Valley Trails. The Committee wanted to take him up on his offer to do some work re-routing steep grades, but we want to see what they are proposing first. Terry to contact him.

8. Equipment and Expenses

- a. Equipment to be acquired – Mower/brush cutter – Need quotes – Jim felt that mower was more pressing than chipper & most people agreed. We need to see what we can do to use the \$4,300 fund to get the mower.
- b. Expenses to be submit – Bill submitted his \$75 fee to register the booth for Shelton Day. Rich will submit invoices for security systems. Terry has some tool invoices for next month.

6:30 – Sherri had to leave.

- 9. Scout Projects – All three projects signed off – One or more may attend. – no scouts attended the meeting.
 - a. Dylan – Lane Street Kiosk and Phase 3a & b improvements – no news
 - b. Craig – Abbey Wright drainage and improvements – Completed – scout has to file his papers for eagle scout still.
 - c. Chris – Birchbank Kiosk and Blue Dot Trail improvements – Bill said he did the clean-up at Round Hill Road entrance and put up kiosk at Okenuk Way. This is the major blue trail accessway for the upper White Hills neighborhood.

10. Membership and Volunteers – we talked about Peter Conway’s recent letter about quitting & agreed to table action on it until we can talk some sense into him. Everybody though he was a valuable Committee member & wanted to keep him on.

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting November 4, 2009

Meeting End: 7:00 motion to adjourn by Lynn R., seconded by Jim Taradine, **approved 5-0-0.**