



City of Shelton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for
January 3, 2018

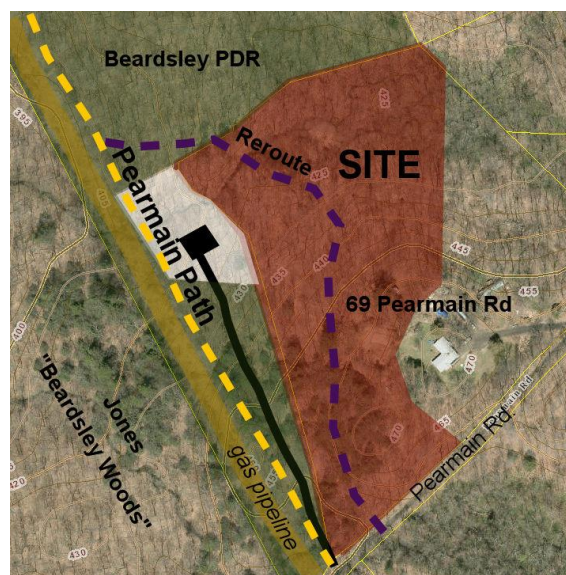
Present: Bill Dyer (Chair), Bob Wood, Val Gosset, Sheri Dutkanicz, Jim Taradine, Mike Flament (arrived 5:37 pm), Terry Gallagher (arrived 5:45 pm). **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:35 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the December 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. All were in favor.**
2. **Recent Trail Activities:**
 - A. **There were no work parties or events held since the last meeting.**
 - B. **Pearmain Path & Preserve:** Bill Dyer described a meeting he attended with Teresa Gallagher, Terry Jones (Jones Family Farms), Bruce Nichols (Shelton Land Conservation Trust), and Guy Beardsley (Guy's EcoGarden) to discuss potential land acquisition near the Pearmain Path and an upgrade to the trail. Teresa Gallagher noted that the project has since been named "Pearmain Preserve." Bill Dyer continued: The City will be applying for a DEEP grant to acquire a portion of #69 Pearmain Road, which is located near the hiking trail that leads from the Scout Camp at the Land Trust's Nicholdale Farm to Pearmain Road.

The trail crosses property owned by the Beardsley family that was previously preserved with a conservation easement. The conditions of the preservation agreement were that a hiking trail would be allowed next to the gas pipeline. This trail is called the Pearmain Path. The agreement also left an area next to the path that could be developed into a home and driveway (see map). If built, this would have major impacts to the trail.

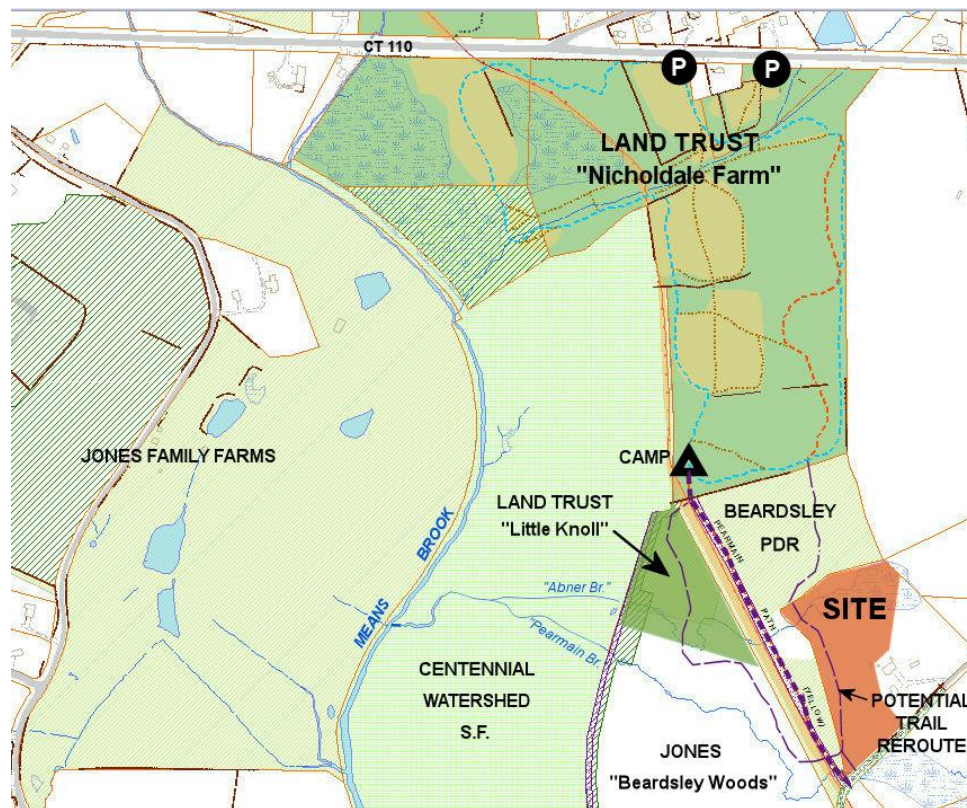
The abutting property at #69 Pearmain Road was approved for a subdivision in 2017. The Mayor intends to purchase the undeveloped portion of the property for open space, leaving three conventional building lots to the developer. Teresa Gallagher is working on an Open Space grant application to the CT DEEP.



The purchase would allow the Trails Committee to reroute the vulnerable portion of the Pearmain Path onto permanently protected open space, moving it away from the future Beardsley home and driveway, as shown on the map.

During the meeting, Terry Jones had said that the farm is donating an area called “Little Knoll”, located near the Scout camp, to the Land Trust. He would like to see the property at #69 Pearmain Preserve purchased for open space and would facilitate the acquisition with permission for a return loop of the Pearmain Path through the Jones property known as “Beardsley Woods.” The return trail would also go through the “Little Knoll” property just donated to the Land Trust.

At the meeting, Guy Beardsley indicated he was in support of the acquisition that abuts his property. He mentioned that the family has always referred to their piece as “Abner Beardsley’s Woodlot.” He also would not object to moving the northern part of the trail east away from the gas line so that Pearmain Path upgrade might look something like what is shown on the map below:



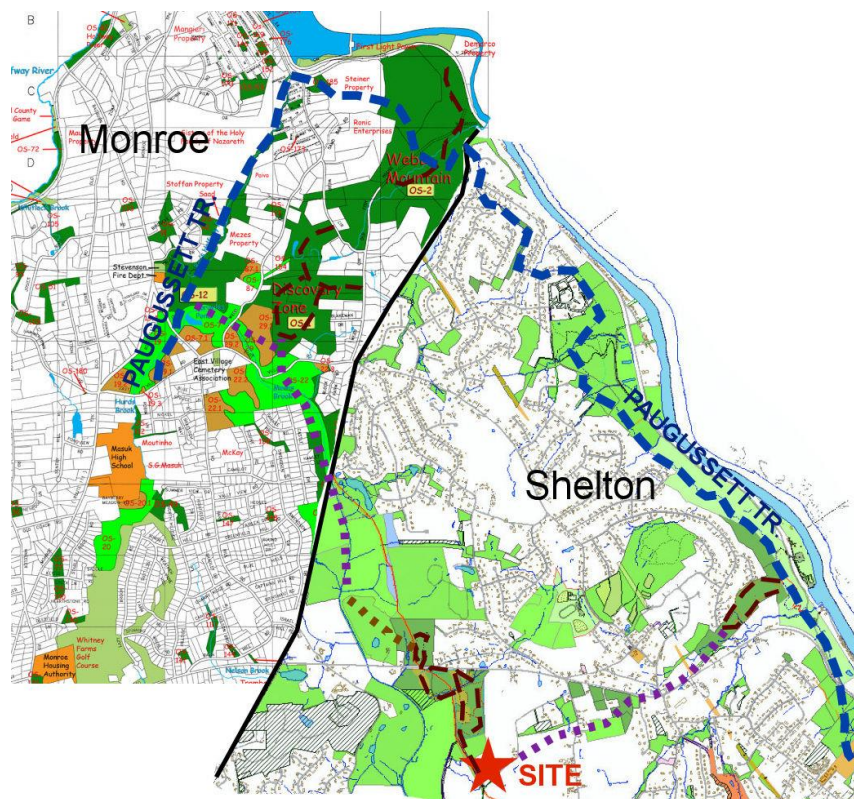
At the meeting, Bruce Nichols, on behalf of the Land Trust, thought that a good spot for the loop to begin on Land Trust property would be at the big boulder and tree along the existing blue Perimeter Trail where an old road exists. The Land Trust will draft a letter of support for the project.

Teresa Gallagher said that after the meeting, she walked the Jones property

where the return loop would be and described it as very scenic. There is a hemlock grove, water fall, and scenic knoll overlook a broad wooded valley.

Terry Gallagher made a motion for the Trails Committee to send a letter of support for the Pearmain Preserve project and trail upgrade. Bob Wood seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Teresa Gallagher shared an overview map she prepared by splicing the Shelton and Monroe open space maps together (below). This shows the Paugussett Trail and existing local trails at Webb Mountain and Nicholdale and shows how there is a corridor of preserved greenspace along Means Brook that continues north of the Shelton/Monroe border. The 2009 Open Space Plan included a potential “Big Loop” trail that might someday link the trails in Monroe south through Nicholdale and then east to Indian Well State Park. This is something that would not be built any time soon, but if the corridor is preserved, there is always the option for future generations to build it.



3. Projects planned for the near future:

- A. **2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge:** Not many people completed the challenge. The Committee decided to extend the deadline until Trails Day, June 2, 2018.

- B. Trail Monitor Program:** Teresa Gallagher drafted up a webpage on the Trails blog and created a logo that can be used to make T-shirts or hats or other gear to support the program. One person already signed up. Bill Dyer said the Committee now needs to publicize it.
- C. National Trails Day (June 2):** The Committee decided to host a hike on the northern part of the Paugussett Trail, tentatively starting from Birchbank, heading up to the Birchbank overlook, then heading north along the Paugussett to Webb Mtn. This would feature some of the trail improvements that have been made over the past few years. Teresa Gallagher will contact someone from the Town of Monroe to see if they are interested in a joint event or, if not, have any issues with Shelton hosting an event that ends at Webb Mtn.
- D. Lane Street Bridge Repair –** Bill Dyer and Terry Gallagher did not have a chance to meet with Jack Bashar to discuss this issue. Subsequent to the meeting, Conservation was copied in on a memo from Planning and Zoning, who reviewed the project and supported it. There were a number of items addressed in the memo, but no mention of the conversion of the Rec Path to a temporary roadway. Terry Gallagher noted that if they shift the road to the north they can save trees and a stone wall, and all they really need for a temporary road is a width of 16 feet, not the wide, paved street they are planning (the state DOT always wants something larger). Also, along Lane Street down by Century 21 there are improvements that could be made for people walking and biking down Lane Street. Bill Dyer added that they should also bring up the inability to walk along Huntington Street to the Common Bond shopping center. Terry Gallagher also thought it might be a good time to take out some of the trees at the trailhead parking area since people are parking on the street. Bill Dyer said he and Terry Gallagher will try to speak with Jack Bashar before the next meeting.

4. Guided Hikes/Events:

2018 Schedule:

- A. Marshmallow March. Saturday, March 3 at 1:00 pm. Nicholdale Farm
- B. Wildflower Hike. Saturday, April 21*, 10:00 am at Birchbank. (*pushed back to April 28 if it's a cold spring)
- C. Trails Day. Saturday, June 2, 10:30 am. Paugussett Trail, Birchbank to Webb Mtn (tentative). Rainedate Sunday at 1:00 pm.
- D. Full Moon Hike. Sunday, Sept. 23, 7:00 pm (sunset is at 6:46 pm). Nicholdale Farm.
- E. Shelton Day. Sunday, October 7.
- F. Buddington Loop. Saturday, October 20, 3:00 pm. Buddington Road Paugussett Trailhead.
- G. Turkey Trot Trek. Sunday Nov. 25, 1:00 pm.

5. Potential Work Parties:

- A. None.

6. Equipment and Expenses

A. Terry Gallagher submitted expenses of \$79.25 for repair of the brushcutter.

7. Comments by Members:

A. Val Gosset said she would like to grow the email list. Sheri Dutkanicz said she would add a note to the press releases.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered a draft until approved by the Trails Committee.