



**City of Shelton
Trails Committee**

Meeting Minutes for
March 14, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:32 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Bob Wood made a motion to approve the January 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset . All were in favor.
2. **Public present:** Bob Streb, Conrad Gosset
3. **Recent Trail Activities:**
 - A. **The Marshmallow March** was poorly attended due to weather conditions. Ten people and three dogs joined the event.
 - B. **Blowdowns** were cleared from the Rec Path at Pine Lake after a major Nor'easter that caused widespread power outages. Committee members Bill Dyer, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, and Mike Flament brought chainsaws and cleared the Path on the Saturday morning after the storm. Trail Monitor Bob Streb had previously detailed the trail obstructions by email, which was very helpful. Bill Dyer and Bob Streb returned later in the day to work on the Silent Waters section of the Path (22 hours total). Unknown trail users cleared many of the fallen branches. Teresa Gallagher took a small chainsaw along the Rec Path starting at the Dog Park to Nells Rock/Paugussett Trails and worked on larger branches, leaving smaller branches for trail users to clear. (2.5 hours).
 - C. **Stockmal Trail:** In order to comply with the conditions of an earlier DEEP Open Space grant and qualify for a new grant, staff Teresa Gallagher constructed a new trail through the Land Trust's Willis Woods property and the privately-owned Stockmal property, which is protected by a conservation easement. February was unusually mild and snow-free, allowing the trail to be completed and blazed (60 hours including time spent with the landowner, planning, clearing, painting, installing signs). The Trails Committee held a work party to build a bridge over a brook (30 hours - see photo).



- D. Grant application for Pearmain Path.** Staff submitted a grant application for property adjacent to the Pearmain Path.
- E. The Trail Monitoring program** has been started and is working well.
- F. Total Volunteer Hours: 52. Staff hours on trails: 62.**

4. Projects planned for the near future:

- A. 2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge extended:** The Committee decided to extend the deadline to Trails Day, June 2, 2018. Bill Dyer noted this hasn’t been publicized much. He will send in a note to the Herald.
- B. Trail Monitor Program:** Bill Dyer said this needs to be promoted more.
- C. Shelter Ridge Inland Wetlands Public Hearing:** Bill Dyer said that the public hearing for the project was March 15 at 7:00 and March 22. Anyone can speak. Teresa Gallagher summarized the report she prepared for the Conservation Commission and noted the applicant is still showing the Paugussett Trail on the site plans even after the Trails Committee sent a letter to Planning and Zoning asking the applicant to stop doing so. Terrance Gallagher suggested sending a letter to IWC from the Trails Committee. He showed the site plans to Committee members (there are some new members since the last review). **Bob Wood made a motion to send a letter to Inland Wetlands stating that the Trails Committee is opposed to the project as shown, and would like to the applicant to stop showing the Paugussett Trail on their plan as previously requested. Mike seconded. All were in favor.**
- D. National Trails Day (June 2):** Teresa Gallagher listed the hike with CFPA. The route will start at Birchbank, going up to the Birchbank overlook. From there, hikers will follow the Paugussett Trail to the Monroe border, where they will be met by a party from the Town of Monroe. Then they will turn onto the red and violet trails to arrive at the Webb Mtn overlook before heading to the parking area where cars will have been spotted.
- E. Lane Street Bridge Repair.** Bill Dyer spoke briefly with the Mayor’s assistant Jack Bashar and plans to return with maps. Terry Gallagher suggested meeting next week with him. Bill Dyer said he will check with Jack Bashar.
- F. Tree damage:** Terry Gallagher suggested making a list of trees for the tree warden to handle that are dangling above the trails but are too difficult for the volunteers to handle.

5. Guided Hikes/Events:

2018 Schedule:

- A. Wildflower Hike.** Saturday, April 21*, 10:00 am at Birchbank. (*pushed back to April 28 if it’s a cold spring)
- B. Trails Day.** Saturday, June 2, 9:30 am. Paugussett Trail, Birchbank to Webb Mtn (tentative). Raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm.
- C. Full Moon Hike.** Sunday, Sept. 23, 7:00 pm (sunset is at 6:46 pm). Nicholdale Farm.
- D. Shelton Day.** Sunday, October 7.
- E. Buddington Loop.** Saturday, October 20, 3:00 pm. Buddington Road Paugussett Trailhead.

F. Turkey Trot Trek. Sunday Nov. 25, 1:00 pm.

6. Potential Work Parties:

- A. March 24, 8:30 a.m. Nells Rock Abbey Wright lot, general trail clearing
- B. April 7 and 10: Teresa Gallagher has scheduled work parties for the High School students in April and distributed flyers.
- C. April 14 Birchbank 8:30 am

7. Equipment and Expenses

- A. Terry Gallagher received a quote for a 24" hedgetrimmer from Knights for \$319.95. Bob Wood asked about battery powered hedgetrimmers. Jim Taradine responded that those were nice, but the gas-powered units were more powerful. Terry Gallagher said they could probably purchase a battery-powered unit as well. **Terry Gallagher made a motion to purchase the gas-powered hedgetrimmer, and the electric chainsaw on a stick that Bill Dyer purchased, and a winch and mounting plates for the gator. Seconded by Bill Dyer. All were in favor.** Teresa Gallagher will obtain a purchase order.

- 8. **Eagle Scout Project:** Bill Dyer has been working with Josh Andres for his project to install trail benches. He needs to obtain 8-ft long pressure treated wood and trim that to a length of about five feet. Installation locations will include Hope Lake near the fishing platform and possibly Great Ledge. There will be a total of four benches, one which the Scout is building from scratch, and three which are rebuilt using concrete supports. The bench he is building will go on top of the Silent Waters dam.

9. Comments by Members:

- A. Terry Gallagher picked up some books on tree cutting that he passed out.
- B. Jim Taradine asked if the Committee had decide not to install a bridge where Basil Brook Bypass crosses the stream at the stone wall. Bill Dyer responded that he can get across the brook there, so probably one is not needed.
- C. Val Gosset reminded Committee members to be sure to always add a blurb to announcements and emails telling people how to get on the Trails mailing list by sending an email to sheltontrailscommittee@gmail.com. She does check it routinely.
- D. Mike Flament wondered who plowed the trails parking lot. Teresa Gallagher said it was Parks & Rec Department. He noticed trail sections with no footprints in the snow, perhaps because there was no place to park. Terrance Gallagher said they have to do the school parking lots and higher priority locations first. But at least people can park at the school. Maybe that can be publicized more. Jim Taradine thought most people just weren't interested in hiking in the snow.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

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