



**City of Shelton**  
**Trails Committee**  
Meeting Minutes for  
April 4, 2018

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

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

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Terry Gallagher made a motion to approve the March 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.**
2. **Public Portion:** Richard Skudlarek reported at least four major trees down across Basil Brook Bypass. Also, near Meadow Street at Wiacek there are a number of small branches down over the trail, and the Paugussett Trail near Buddington Road has a number of small limbs on the trail. Teresa Gallagher noted it's taken her an average of seven hours per mile to clear blowdowns in the White Hills.

3. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. Nells Rock Trail Work Party: Nineteen volunteers participated in cleaning out blowdowns and overgrowth from the Nells Rock Trails. (60 hours total).
- B. Teresa Gallagher cleared blowdowns over the weekend from Stockmal Trail (7 hours) and the Paugussett at Indian Well (11 hours).
- C. Terry Gallagher removed the Silent Waters boat launch sign for refurbishing. (1 hours).
- D. Bill Dyer cleared Turkey Trot Trail and removed blowdowns at Eklund (6 hours)
- E. Staff completed blazing on Willis Woods Red Trail and side hilled 25 feet of treadway near Stockmal Trail entrance. (4 hours)
- F. Bob Wood cleared trails (2 hours)
- G. **Total volunteer hours: 91. Staff hours: 4**



4. **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:** This needs more advertising and announcements.
- C. **Shelter Ridge Project Status:** Bill Dyer read the Trails Committee’s letter to the Inland Wetlands Commission at the public hearing and Tom Harbinson also made a presentation. The hearing is continued, but a date has not been set.
- D. **Concern for Clearing Trails on Lane Street.** Bill Dyer and Terry Gallagher will try and meet with Jack Bashar. This has been difficult because Jack Bashar prefers not to make appointments.
- E. **Paugussett Trail Poet Path:** Work parties are scheduled for high school students over Spring Break to take advantage of required community service, but the weather forecast is bad, with possible snow. Terry Gallagher called CFPA and will borrow some of their tools for side-hilling the trail.
- F. **April 22 Earth Day Clean Sweep event:** This was organized by the Litter Committee to clean litter from the trails, reservoirs, and roadways at Shelton Lakes.

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). Teresa Gallagher said she thought the later date may be more appropriate due to the cold spring.
- B. Trails Day. Saturday, June 2, 10:30 am. Paugussett Trail, Birchbank to Webb Mtn. 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 14, 8:30 am Birchbank Mountain to clear blowdowns. Teresa Gallagher received a report of multiple blowdowns on the Paugussett off of Round Hill Road.
- B. March 28, 8:30 am Basil Brook Bypass. Meet at lower Wesley Drive crossing.

**7. Equipment and Expenses**

- A. Bill Dyer purchased a gator winch.
- B. Purchase order for hedge trimmer was received.

**8. Comments by Members:**

- A. Jim Taradine asked if the Committee was going to fix up the canoe launch at Silent Waters. Members agreed. Terry Gallagher has the canoe launch sign at home to be refurbished.
- B. Teresa Gallagher made a second trail blaze painting kit to be kept in the trail barn. She showed committee members the basics on how blazes are painted.
- C. Terry Gallagher said they had a great turn out for the Nells Rock work party, with lots of kids, and he could have been better prepared for when people are first showing up. The Committee needs to always have at least one Trails Committee member onsite ahead of time to greet volunteers.
- D. Mike Flament noted there are still a couple of rails missing on the Silent Waters dam.

**9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.**

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