City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
May 2, 2018

Present: Val Gosset, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, Bob Wood
Absent: Bill Dyer (Chair), Mike Flament, Sheri Dutkanicz
Also present: Teresa Gallagher (Natural Resource Manager); Mark Vollaro (trail volunteer)

The meeting was called to order by Terry Gallagher at 5:35 pm.

1. Meeting Minutes: Bob Wood made a motion to approve the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Taradine. All were in favor.

2. Recent Trail Activities:

   A. Wildflower Hike at Birchbank: Fourteen people attended the hike (photo). A cold rain in the morning reduced the turnout.

   B. Poet Path #1 April 8 Work Party - Special event for high school community service hours. About a dozen volunteers began benching the Paugussett Trail into the side of the hill. About 400 feet was cut. (45 hours).

   C. Poet Path #2 April 12 WP - Eight volunteers continued work on the trail, cutting about 200 feet of tread into the side of the hill and polishing 200 feet of tread from the previous work party. About 200 feet is left to cut (31 hours).
D. **Birchbank Trail WP** - About 20 volunteers spent the morning clearing out winter storm damage and overgrowth, including many blowdowns and logs across the trail (60 hours)

E. **Basil Brook Bypass WP** - About 19 people helped clear storm damage and overgrowth from Basil Brook Bypass, including blowdowns. (50 hours)

F. **Poet Path Decorative Painted Slates**: Terry & Teresa Gallagher installed five painted slates along the Poet Path. Each slate was painted by Emma Gallagher with a quote from a poet. (6 hours)

G. **Basil Brook signs**: Terry Gallagher installed four wood-burned signs on Basil Brook Bypass. (2 hours).

H. Bob Streb cut blowdowns at **Boehm Pond** (2 hours)

I. Teresa Gallagher created a [Google Group distribution list](#) to replace the Gmail distribution list, which was not working. The list has 300 people on it. She also built **steps for the Paugussett Trail at the Poet Path** section north of Princess Wenonah Drive, which is very steep and a safety issue. The route will be featured for the Trails Day Hike.

**Total volunteer hours**: 196 hours (does not include the Anti-Litter Committee’s Clean Sweep event on the trails at Shelton Lakes).
Projects planned for the near future:

A. **Paugussett Trail at #180 Thoreau Drive.** Teresa Gallagher reported an issue with the Paugussett Trail in the narrow open space corridor next to 182 Thoreau Drive. The open space is only 20 feet wide, and the trail currently follows the edge of the neighbor’s lawn. Conservation previously approved the purchase of evergreen trees, but the neighboring property owner is unsure of the property line location and skeptical of the GIS-aerial overlay map. She recommended that the City hire a surveyor to pin the corners and prepare a map showing the existing trail, driveway, and other features. This part of the trail is very uncomfortable to hikers. Val Gosset agreed and said it feels like you are in the wrong place. If she was hiking alone, she would probably turn around and go back rather than continue into the yard. **Terry Gallagher made a motion to recommend to Conservation that it hire a surveyor to pin and map the open space next to 182 Thoreau Drive. Seconded by Bob Wood. All in favor.**

B. **Trail Monitor Program:** Val Gosset said she would send out a notice to the email list. Terry Gallagher said the committee should have more rewards for volunteers like hats or bottle openers.

C. **Concern for Clearing Trails on Lane Street.** Teresa Gallagher relayed Bill Dyer’s conversation with Bob Kulacz, the City Engineer. He was told the road width and surfacing was a liability issue. Terry Gallagher wondered if that was a state DOT issue or the City Engineer’s decision. He may call Bob Kulacz and discuss.

D. **Paugussett Trail Poet Path Section:** Teresa Gallagher reported that about 700 feet of trail has been benched into the side of the hill and 200 feet of trail still needs to be done. Much of the completed section needs to be polished up because it’s still not level in places, and the edges need to be cleaned up. She is trying to find high school students who missed their community service deadline and award them an hour of service for each 10 feet or so of trail they complete. She is also continuing work on the unsafe ascent from Princess Wenonah. The goal is to have the Poet Path section of trail completed for the Trails Day hike in June.

3. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

**2018 Schedule:**

A. Trails Day. Saturday, June 2, 9:15 am meeting time with hike starting at 9:30 am sharp. Paugussett Trail, Birchbank to Webb Mtn. Raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm. Jim Taradine will not be doing the hike. Full Moon Hike. Sunday, Sept. 23, 7:00 pm (sunset is at 6:46 pm). Nicholdale Farm.

B. Shelton Day. Sunday, October 7.

C. Buddington Loop. Saturday, October 20, 3:00 pm. Buddington Road Paugussett Trailhead.

D. Turkey Trot Trek. Sunday Nov. 25, 1:00 pm.
4. **Potential Work Parties:**
   A. May 12, 8:30 am Riverview Park meet at Basketball courts. Leaf & litter removal.
   B. May 19 (May 26 is Memorial Day weekend), 8:30 am. Rec Path clearing at Great Ledge. Meet at end of Oak Valley Road Extension with additional parking at the Oak Valley “elbow” under the powerlines in front of the gate.

5. **Equipment and Expenses**
   A. Terry Gallagher liked using the rogue hoes for benching in the trail. Mark Vallaro thought the rogue hoe was good after the pick axe had broken up the ground first. Another possibility is a hazel hoe.
   B. Terry Gallagher submitted expenses for $172 for five books on how to fell a tree, small brush for trail blazing, and some extra loppers. Bob Wood motioned to approve the expenditures. Jim Taradine seconded. All were in favor.

6. **Comments by Members:**
   A. Terry Gallagher said that Mark Vallaro has done a great job coming out to the work parties.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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