



**City of Shelton
Trails Committee**
Meeting Minutes for
June 6, 2018

Present: Bill Dyer (Chairman), Val Gosset, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, Bob Wood, Mike Flament

Absent: Sheri Dutkanicz. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher (Natural Resource Manager); Mark Vallaro, trail volunteer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Dyer at at 5:34 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.**

2. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. **The Trails Day Hike** was attended by twenty-three people who hiked from Birchbank Mountain to Webb Mountain in Monroe along the Paugussett Trail (photo). The hike route was four miles long and included an overall elevation gain of 800 feet, and featured two scenic overlooks of the Housatonic River. At the Webb Mountain overlook, the group was met by Dave Solek, Monroe Park Ranger at Webb Mountain, who spoke about the history of Goat Rock.



- B. **A work party was held to clear the Bluff Walk** at Riverview Park. Blowdowns, leaves, litter, and overgrowth were cleaned up. (7 people x 3 hrs = 21 hrs total)
- C. **Sycamore Drive Access Trail: Mini-work party.** Jim Taradine, Mark Vallaro, and Terry Gallagher cleared a blowdown that was reported by a trail user (3 people x 2 hrs = 6 hrs)
- D. **The Great Ledge Rec Path** work party was rained out, although Terry Gallagher worked in the rain for a few hours clearing overgrowth. (2.5 hours)
- E. **Blowdowns at Birchbank** from the recent Supercell storm were cleared by Terry & Teresa Gallagher and Mark Vallaro in preparation for the Trails Day Hike. (Volunteer hours 8, staff hrs 4)
- F. **Blowdowns on the Paugussett at Indian Well** from the Supercell storm were cleared by Teresa Gallagher (Volunteer hours 7)
- G. **A blowdown on Rec Path was cleared** by Bill Dyer and Jim Taradine (Volunteer hours 3)

Total volunteer hours: 47.5

3. **Projects planned for the near future:**

- A. **National Trails Day Hike, lessons learned.** The event was regional, with people from Shelton, Derby, Bridgeport, Stratford, Monroe, and Milford. The car spotting worked well. The hike was difficult for some people, especially due to the muggy weather.
- B. **Trail Monitoring Program.** The Huntington Herald ran a good article and there were several responses.
- C. **Mowing.** In previous years, Richard Skudlarek and Jim Taradine did the mowing together, but Richard Skudlarek is no longer available. Bill Dyer noted that it takes two people. Mike Flament and Bob Wood volunteered to join Jim Taradine as needed, usually a weekday.
- D. **Lane Street Fire Access / Rec Path-** Temporary conversion to city street: Mark Vallaro said he collected leaves from the marked chestnut, which does look like an American Chestnut. He will be sending the leaves to an expert with the American Chestnut Foundation for analysis to see if it is a pure American Chestnut, or is a hybrid. If it is pure, it's the largest American Chestnut he has seen growing in the wild.

4. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

2018 Schedule:

- A. Full Moon Hike Sept 23, 7:00 pm
- 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

5. **Potential Work Parties:**

- A. **Saturday, June 9, Paugussett Trail** between Mayflower Lane and Indian Well. Most committee members will be unable to attend, so a general work party will not be announced. However, Jim Taradine will meet with Mike Flament and Mark Vallaro at Sinsabaugh Heights to work on the section. Teresa Gallagher noted she had touched base with CFPA and urged them to appoint a new Trail Manager as soon as possible.
- B. **Saturday, June 16, Paugussett Trail between Mayflower Lane and Indian Well:** Potential work party if needed.
- C. **Saturday, June 23, 8:30 am. Rec Path clearing.** Meet at the Real Estate Two parking lot on Lane Street.

6. **Eagle Scout Projects:** Josh Andes has been installing benches.

7. **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.