



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
December 5, 2018

Present: Bill Dyer, Terry Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Jim Taradine, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Mike Flament. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher (Natural Resource Manager), Elizabeth Buckley (CFPA Paugussett Trail Manager).

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

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Val Gosset made a motion to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mike Flament. All were in favor.**
2. **Public Portion:** Elizabeth “Polly” Buckley introduced herself as CFPA’s new Trail Manager for the south section of the Paugussett Trail (from the Indian Well falls parking area to Buddington Road).



3. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. The annual Turkey Trot Trek was very well-attended due to warm temperatures. Forty-two people hiked the trail (photo).
- B. A work party was held on the Paugussett Trail north of Thoreau Drive to install 60 linear feet of fencing to delineate a 20-foot-wide open space corridor between homes. The trail tread was also improved. (Eleven people x 3.5 hours = 38.5 hrs)
- C. Terry Gallagher picked up fencing materials and delivered (multiple trips). 3 hours.

- D. Mark Vollaro cleared blowdowns at Birchbank and the Overlooks (1.0 Birchbank, 1.0 hours Paugussett North, 1.0 Paugussett South)
- E. Mike Flament removed a blowdown from the blue/white trail near the Dog Park (1 hour)
- F. Terry and Teresa Gallagher rerouted about 300 feet of the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well through dense barberry at the bridge near the beach access trail. The September flash flood caused substantial erosion to the stream channel, which threatened to undermine the existing trail. (12 hours)
- G. Mark Vollaro dug a drainage channel on the blue/white trail near the dog park and flagged a potential Turkey Trot trail reroute (2.0 hours)
- H. Val Gossett worked on communications (blog, press releases, email list) (1.5 hr)
- I. Mark Vollaro assisted staff with rerouting and benching the Paugussett Trail at the Monroe border. (3.5 hrs)
- J. Teresa Gallagher rerouted a 350-foot section of the Paugussett at Indian Well near the Birchbank border between “Blowdown Brook” and Hickory Lane Hill because the steep trail had become a gully. (25 hours).
- K. Mark Vollaro removed a blowdown from the Rec Path behind Pine Lake (2.0 hrs).
- L. Terry Gallagher chainsawed blowdowns from the Paugussett at Indian Well (4 hrs)
- M. Teresa Gallagher began a reroute of the Paugussett Trail at the border of Indian Well and Birchbank (Hickory Lane Hill) to push the trail further away from the houses on Hickory Lane (11 hrs)
- N. Elizabeth Buckley monitored and worked on the Paugussett Trail (8 hours)
- O. Bill Dyer met with Mayor Lauretti and Bob Kulacz to discuss use of the Rec Path as a temporary road to Lane Street (1 hour)
- P. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 115.5** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

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

- A. **Lane Street Bridge Repair:** Bill Dyer met with Mayor Lauretti and City Engineer Bob Kulacz to talk about saving the specimen trees along the Rec Path while the Path is being used for temporary vehicular access to Lane Street during bridge work. The Mayor later met with the City Engineer on site.
- B. **Turkey Trot Trail:** A reroute was flagged by Mark Vollaro to bypass a wet area near the corner of Willoughby Road and Rt 108. Terry Gallagher noted the recent article about SHS cross country runner Robert Dillon and the hills of the trails being helpful for training. Turkey Trot Trail was designed to be a 5K route. The flagged reroute is about 100 feet long and would require some chainsaw work. It does not seem to be enough work for a full work party.
- C. **Rec Path brush:** The committee discussed the potential for clearing brush along the Rec Path at Great Ledge because that area becomes overgrown very rapidly during the growing season.

5. **Potential Work Parties:**

- A. Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m. Rec Path at Great Ledge. Meet at the turnaround near the end of Oak Valley Road. Overflow parking at the powerline crossing on Oak Valley Road. Heavy brush clearing along the edges of the Path.
- B. Saturday, December 22 -- no work party. Committee members may get together at some point to work on the Turkey Trot reroute.

6. **Expenses:** Terry Gallagher submitted receipts totalling \$275.78 for fencing materials used along the Paugussett Trail north of Thoreau Drive.

7. **“Big Loop” Trail Concept:** Bill Dyer shared a draft map created with GIS of the so-called “Big Loop” Trail (attached next page). The route would make use of existing trails, especially the Paugussett Trail, along with some new connecting trail in Monroe and Shelton to create a 12-mile backpacking loop. There are two legal places to camp along the route: Webb Mountain (general camping) and the Shelton Land Trusts Nicholdale Farm (Youth Camping). There are no other backpacking opportunities in this part of the state. The trail concept is not new and was included on the 2009 Open Space Plan. In Monroe, new trail sections would be created through Centennial Watershed State Forest, mostly owned by Aquarion. There is a special committee that reviews proposals for trails in the state forest. Terry Gallagher thought it was a nice idea that fits in with other things Shelton has done like the new Stockmal Trail. Bill Dyer thought a better name was needed.

8. 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.

