



**City of Shelton
Trails Committee**

Meeting Minutes for
February 6, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:35 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mike Flament. All were in favor.**
2. **Public Portion:** Mike Yachymczyk introduced himself and said he was interested in helping out with trails. He was part of the Fairview Tree Farm crew that built a portion of the Rec Path, and has been the Market Master for the Farmer’s Market for several years.

Polly Buckley requested that the Paugussett Trail be rerouted onto the bypass located south of Eklund Garden where the trail descends a steep hill. This bypass was created several years ago by Scouts after the property it is located on was acquired by the City. The original route is very steep. **Bob Wood made a motion to shift the trail onto the bypass. Seconded by Terry Gallagher. All were in favor.**

3. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. Trails Committee members walked the new Pearmain Preserve property to scout out a new trail location. Five people (12.5 hrs)
- B. A work party was held in very cold weather to remove a large concrete footing from the island at Hope Lake (*photo next page*), making use of solid ice to access the island and lack of snow to transport gear. Home Depot contributed the use of a jack hammer and generator. Six people. (36 hours)
- C. Mark Vollaro prepared for the removal of the Hope Lake island concrete and completed the project after the jack-hammer work party (24.5 hours)
- D. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro retrieved boards in storage and surveyed the work site at Hope Lake (4.0 hrs)
- E. Mark Vollaro cleared storm damage from the Rec Path at the Dog Park (1.5 hrs)
- F. CFPA Trail Manager Elizabeth “Polly” Buckley worked on the Paugussett Trail (18.25 hrs).
- G. Val Gosset managed the email list and contacted trail monitors. (2.0 hrs)
- H. Terry Gallagher created blog posts (2 hrs)

- I. Bill Dyer cleared brush near the remaining concrete footing at Hope Lake so it can be used as a sitting bench (1 hr).
- J. Mike removed a blowdown on the Paugussett (1 hr)
- K. Terry Gallagher obtained repair parts (2 hrs)
- L. Bob Wood removed a blowdown at Pine Lake (1.5 hr)
- M. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 106.25 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)



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

- A. Hope Lake: The concrete rubble from the old footing that was recently broken up at Hope Lake needs to be hauled up to the road with the gator. The trail will need to freeze first.
- B. Pearmain Path: The new loop route needs to be flagged on the Pearmain Preserve, and finalize on the Jones & Land Trust property.
- C. Turkey Trot/Rec Path north intersection has a runoff problem and needs drainage. Terry Gallagher said there is a drainage pipe across the Rec Path that is probably clogged with leaves.

5. **2019 Guided Hikes/Events**

- A. Marshmallow Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 pm. Nicholdale Farm
- B. Wildflower Hike. Saturday, April 20* or April 27 depending on blooms, 10:00 at Birchbank Mountain
- C. Trails Day. Saturday, June 1, 10:30 am. Raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm. Meet at SIS. Guides will take hikers along the Rec Path at the top of Silent Waters, cross Shelton Ave at the Dog Park and follow the Paugussett Trail along Hope

Lake to Oak Valley Trail, loop back and cross Shelton Avenue at the powerlines, and return to SIS via the north half of Turkey Trot Trail.

- D. Full Moon Hike October 13, Sunday, Nicholdale Farm 7:00 pm There will be a campfire and marshmallows.
- E. Turkey Trot Trail Dec. 1, Sunday 1:00 pm. Meet at SIS.

6. Potential Work Parties:

- A. Feb. 9. Saturday, 9:00 am. Meet at the Eklund parking area to move concrete rubble, chainsaw trees, and do general trail maintenance.
- B. Feb. 23 Saturday, 9:00 am, meet at the Dog Park for general trail maintenance, Oak Valley and other nearby trails.

7. Expenses:

- A. Mark Vollaro submitted receipts totalling \$68.35 for expenses related to breaking up and removing the concrete footing on the Hope Lake island. Home Depot did not charge for the use of their jackhammer and generator.
- B. Terry Gallagher submitted receipts totalling \$135.84 for Stihl maintenance supplies for their power tools.

Bob Wood made a motion to approve reimbursement of the expenditures. Seconded by Mike Flament. All were in favor.

Terry Gallagher obtained quotes for a second Stihl brush cutter, model FS360 which came to about \$1000 plus blades and accessories. He thought it would be a good idea to have a second brush cutter, since the first one breaks down frequently and needs to be repaired, often during the growing season or in the middle of a project and then there are areas of the trails that cannot be cleared. Mark Vollaro said he's used the FS130R and it's about half the price. You can attach a hedgetrimmer-type head and that's much safer for working in a public area. Parks & Rec has also been using the FS130R.

- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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