



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
April 3, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:36 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the March 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.**
2. **Public Portion:** Mike Yachymczyk wants to come up with a hike that ends at the Farmer's Market. Committee discussed possibilities, including a Riverview Park hike. Mike offered to allow a trails booth at the Farmer's Market.

Polly Buckley report that Brennan Turner from CFPA came down to see the Wiacek Paugussett section that is often wet. CFPA staff will not be able to build a bog walk there this year as she had hoped because there are many competing projects, although they will work on the safety issue at Indian Well where the trail goes along the road at Indian Hole Brook. She then invited Trails Committee members to see a variety of bog walk types in Woodbridge and was joined by Val Gosset, Terry Gallagher, and Mark Vollaro. The bog walks are twenty years old and were built a bit at time. It took them two summers. Terry Gallagher said they need to first reroute a small section at Wiacek off the meadow and into the woods. That should be done before everything leafs out. Polly Buckley said she and Mark Vollaro would flag out a reroute. Terry Gallagher thought they had some reclaimed lumber that might work to get the bog walk started.

3. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. Work Party at Boehm Pond: Volunteers recovered and reset a bridge that had washed downstream (*photo*) and cleared several substantial blowdowns. Eight people worked for 4 hours (32 hrs)
- B. Polly Buckley dedicated 18.75 hours to the Paugussett Trail between Indian Well and Buddington including maintenance and onsite reviews with CFPA staff Brennan Turner. CFPA volunteers John Rek (5.5 hrs) and Sheila Wade (3.75 hrs) assisted. Total hours (28 hours total)
- C. Terry Gallagher did additional work on the bridge abutment at Boehm Pond (3 hrs)

- D. Mark Vollaro cleared Willis Trail blowdowns (1.5 hrs) and picked up the new hedgetrimmer/brushcutter (1.5 hrs) (3.0 hrs total)
- E. Val Gosset worked on mailings, the blog, and correspondences (2 hrs)
- F. Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset, and Mark Vollaro drove to Woodbridge to observe various types of bog bridges with Polly Buckley (10 hrs)
- G. Teresa Gallagher monitored and cleared a portion of the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well (2.0 hrs)
- H. Terrance Gallagher removed a blowdown from the Paugussett at Indian Well (2.0 hrs).
- I. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 82 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)



- 4. **Equipment:** Mark Vollaro picked up the new Stihl brushcutter.

5. Potential Projects

- A. Pearmain Loop: The east half of the loop needs to be flagged by the Trails Committee through Guy Beardsley's property and the new Pearmain Preserve. Committee members previously walked a couple potential routes but the ground was frozen. Now that it's thawed and wet areas more apparent, committee members should revisit the site and determine a route. The west half of the route over Jones property and Land Trust's "Little Knoll" parcel was marked with preliminary flagging by Teresa Gallagher, but the ground was frozen. Land Trust president Joe Welsh walked the flagged route with Teresa after the Marshmallow March. He has a Scout lined up to clear that portion of the trail.
- B. Turkey Trot Trail/Rec Path/Paugussett drainage at north junction: Bill Dyer said this is a big job and will need a work party. Terry Gallagher said he took a

look and there is not a drainage pipe across the Rec Path in that location. They might need to install one.

- C. Jim Taradine said the Eversource bridge near Turkey Trot Trail is too narrow for the gator. Teresa Gallagher will contact Eversource and ask for a wider bridge. It needs to be at least 6 ft preferably 8 ft.
- D. New brochures. Teresa Gallagher received a quote from Allegra Printing for \$495 for 1000 brochures.
- E. Wildflower hike. Teresa Gallagher believes the later date of April 27 will likely be the one for the wildflower since she has not seen any of the wildflowers emerging from the ground yet.
- F. Bill Dyer asked if they should create a loop trail west of Boehm Brook north of Boehm Pond? Teresa Gallagher said that area was very wet. Teresa Gallagher asked if she should paint some blazes on the unmarked section. Committee members thought yellow make sense.
- G. Riverview Trail (Bluff Walk): No one has walked that in some time. It probably needs leaves removed at a minimum. Parks and Rec crews blow their leaves onto the trail each fall.
- H. Kiosks: Teresa Gallagher has been updating the kiosks and assigning approximate street addresses for gps usage. There were wasps in the Shelton Ave kiosk at the powerlines.

Potential Work Parties:

- I. April 13, 8:30 am. Rec Path drainage improvements, vegetation overgrowth. Meet at Turkey Trot Trailhead.
- J. April 20, 8:30 Riverview Park, meet at basketball courts.
- K. April 27, 8:30 am. The Wildflower Hike will probably occur on this date, so the work party would be cancelled.

6. 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.