



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
May 1, 2019

Present: Terrance Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Jim Taradine, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Mark Vollaro. **Absent:** Bill Dyer, Mike Flament. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher (Natural Resource Manager).

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

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Bob Wood made a motion to approve the April 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.



Ellen Cramp, Trail Monitor for Oak Valley Trail.

2. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. The annual Wildflower Hike was held at Birchbank Mtn.
- B. The Riverview Park work party was rained out.
- C. A work party was held to address drainage issues at the north junction of the Rec Path and Turkey Trot Trail. Nine volunteers worked for 3.5 hours (31.5 hrs)

- D. Mark Vollaro installed the maintenance kit in the BR350 blower and blew leaves off the trail in preparation for the Rec Path/Turkey Trot work party. (2.5 hrs)
- E. Val Gosset handled communications, including volunteer correspondences and notices of events and work parties (3.5 hrs).
- F. Terrance Gallagher posted to the Trails Blog (1.5 hrs)
- G. Bob Wood cleared the Rec Path at Pine Lake of blowdowns and vines (2.5 hrs)
- H. Mark Vollaro obtained and installed maintenance parts for the BR420 backpack blower. (2 hrs)
- I. Elizabeth Buckley worked on the Paugussett Trail South for 14.5 hours, with 4.75 hours of help from Rob Stout, Bob Stobierski, Jessical Smalley, Jeff Glans and Mark Vollaro (20.25 total)
- J. Mark Vollaro installed a maintenance kit in the MS 180 chainsaw and used the new brushcutter to cut under the powerlines. (3.0 hrs).
- K. Teresa Gallagher worked on drainage issues on the Paugussett Trail North (3.0 hours).
- L. Mark Vollaro cut down two blowdowns from the Paugussett Trail North at Birchbank, and picked up a bag of trash and cut branches at the Round Hill trailhead. (3.0 hrs)
- M. Staff reblazed Oak Valley Trail red and resized the blazes; upgraded the Shelton Lakes kiosks and added addresses to the trailheads; had the new Shelton Lakes brochure printed and distributed to the kiosks; and created and installed eight routed signs at Rec Path trail junctions and Birchbank Mtn. An article about the new Pearmain property and overview of the properties and trails around Nicholdale Farm was published in Shelton Life.
- N. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 72.75 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

3. **Procedure for how to cancel an event.** There was last-minute confusion at the most recent work party when there was a steady rain in the morning but no timely confirmation that the work party was cancelled. Parents of high school students needing community service wanted the work party to take place and contacted Val Gosset, who was not sure what to tell them. Meanwhile, some members of the Trails Committee assumed the work party to remove leaves at Riverview was rained out. Chairman Bill Dyer drove to the work party location to meet anyone who showed up. Val Gosset asked for a cancellation procedure to eliminate future confusion.

Members determined that each event (including work parties and hikes) should have a designated leader. The leader would be responsible for making a rain-cancellation decision by 7:00 am for work parties so that the blog can be updated by 7:30 am. The leader will be chosen during the monthly meetings when work parties are scheduled. The leader can also walk the work area ahead of time if necessary to better clarify what work needs to be done and what tools will be needed.

4. **Working with high school volunteers.** Terrance Gallagher noted that at the last work party, he spent much of his time overseeing a group of high school volunteers, constantly reminding them to work, while other Trail Committee members were busy

doing actual work. Members agreed that most of the students are not very productive, although they do get a few hard-working students. In some cases this is due to a lack of motivation and in others it appears that the students have never done any manual labor and are at a loss. Terrance Gallagher recommended in the future that the students be split up and assigned to specific Trails Committee members, who can better mentor and oversee the student(s). Members agreed. There was also agreement that student should only receive credit for hours actually worked, rather than hours of attendance, and the students should be told this up front.

5. Potential Projects

- A. Pearmain Loop: A route for the east half of the new loop needs to be determined and flagged before there is a work party. Some committee members walked the area last winter, but the ground was frozen. Teresa Gallagher said that there are two main options: Follow the old woods road that crosses the Beardsley property for the full length, or follow it along the northern end but then turn off the road. The second option would be more difficult but also more interesting. But it needs to be walked now that the ground is thawed and wet. Teresa Gallagher will meet with Trail Committee members on the following Tuesday at 8:30 am.
- B. Turkey Trot Trail/Rec Path/Paugussett drainage at north junction. Water runs down Turkey Trot Trail and also seeps out of the hill onto Turkey Trot Trail and the Rec Path. Even after a recent work party there is still a drainage problem. Teresa Gallagher suggest a minor reroute of Turkey Trot at the very end where water is breaking out from the hill onto the trail. Terrance Gallagher said in the long run that they probably need to hire someone to dig up the Rec Path and put in a drain and pipe.
- C. Riverview Trail (Bluff Walk): Parks & Rec crews blow piles of leaves onto the trail each fall and usually the Trails Committee will have a work party to remove the leaves, but never got to it last year. With all the rain, the leaves are expected to be very heavy.

6. Potential Work Parties:

- A. May 11, 8:30 am. Riverview Park leaf removal and clearing. Meet at the Basketball courts. Leader: Jim Taradine.
- B. May 25, 8:30 am. Pearmain Path (new loop). Meet at Nicholdale Farm (general public - Pearmain Road is in poor condition). Leader: Terrance Gallagher.
- C. June 8, 8:30 am. Rec Path at Lane Street (tentative). Leader: Bill Dyer.

7. **Expenses:** Mark Vollaro submitted expenses of \$29.72 for power tool maintenance kits.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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