



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
June 5, 2019

Present: Terrance Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Jim Taradine, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Mike Flament (arrived 6:50 pm). **Absent:** Bill Dyer. **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 May 1, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.



2. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. The annual Trails Day Hike was held at Shelton Lakes. Twenty-three people attended with several dogs (photo).

- B. A work party was held to clear the Bluff Walk at Riverview Park. Eight people attended (24 hrs).
- C. A work party was held to reroute a portion of the Pearmain Path closer to the new Pearmain Preserve property near Nicholdale Farm. (24 hours)
- D. Polly Buckley did maintenance on the Paugussett Trail, south section (7.5 hours).
- E. Val Gosset worked on Trails Committee communications (blog, emails, press releases, calls, etc.) (3.5 hours)
- F. Bill Dyer, Jim Taradine, and Mark Vollaro deepened a drainage swale along the Rec Path near the north junction with Turkey Trot Trail. (12 hrs)
- G. Mark Vollaro cut brush back along the Paugussett Trail from Eklund Garden to the Buddington Rd trailhead. (5 hrs)
- H. Terry Gallagher, Jim Taradine, Luis Isara, and Mark Vollaro cut brush and trees along Turkey Trot Trail and under the powerlines for a gator turnaround (12 hrs)
- I. Mark Vollaro removed protruding rocks in the Rec Path near Meadow Street in response to a report from a runner who tripped and fell (1.5 hrs).
- J. Terry and Teresa Gallagher met onsite with a Scout to discuss a potential Paugussett bridge over Round Hill Brook at the Monroe/Shelton border. (1 hr)
- K. Mark Vollaro attended CFPA sawyer training classes to be certified to use a chainsaw on CFPA's Paugussett Trail. (16 hrs)
- L. Staff installed signage along the Rec Path
- M. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 106.5 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

3. Potential Projects

- A. Several rotting posts and safety rails were knocked over along the Rec Path next to the Silent Waters overlook. These need to be replaced as soon as possible since there is a sharp drop off at the fence line. Committee members will meet to assess the damage and what needs to be done. A fencing company may be needed to repair the damage, since it's growing season and Committee members have their hands full trying to keep the trails clear of vegetation.
- B. Spring overgrown needs to be cut, with priority to the sunny areas including the Rec Path at the Lane Street meadows and the Paugussett Trail along the powerlines between Independence and Sinsabaugh Heights.
- C. Two large fallen trees need to be cut at Birchbank Mountain.
- D. A large tree that has fallen across the Bluff Walk at Riverview Park needs to be cut.
- E. A small bridge near the chimney at Birchbank is desired.
- F. The Paugussett Trail route can be shifted at Wiacek to eliminate part of the meadow walk, which can be confusing and overgrown.

4. Work Parties Scheduled:

- A. June 8, 8:30 am. Rec Path at Lane Street. Leader: Mike Flament. Meet at Lane Street trailhead, with additional parking at the Real Estate 2 lot. General clearing of June vegetation and drainage pipes.
- B. June 22, 8:30 am, Paugussett Trail at Constitution Blvd. Leader: Terry Gallagher. General clearing of June vegetation, especially under the powerlines.

5. **Expenses:** Mark Vollaro submitted expenses totalling \$18.49 for gas (gator and power tools).

6. Scout Projects:

- A. Pearmain Path relocation (West leg): The Land Trust's president Joe Welsh has a Scout lined up to build this section of new trail over properties owned by the Land Trust and Jones Family Farm. The route was flagged over the winter by Teresa Gallagher to connect with the trail previously constructed by the Trails Committee, thereby creating a loop.
- B. Paugussett bridge at Monroe border: Korey Barber from BS Troop 27 intends to construct a bridge over Round Hill Brook, which marks the town border and entrance to Webb Mtn Park.

7. Comments by Members:

- A. Jim Taradine said that the trails barn needs to be organized.
- B. Mark Vollaro asked about the stone wall damage next to the Rec Path at the Dog Park, which has been in disrepair for some time now. Terry Gallagher noted that this wall was hit previously, and the Mayor hired a mason to repair it. Mark Vollaro wondered if the wall should be pulled back since it's been hit twice.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

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