



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
August 7, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Dyer at 5:33 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the July 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.**



2. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. A work party was held to clear the Paugussett Trail from Mayflower Lane to Rt 110, with nine participants (34.0 hours)
- B. A work party was held at Abby Wright to clear out Nells Rock Trail and the Paugussett (photo). There were nine volunteers (36 hrs total , including 4.0 hours on the Paugussett)
- C. Val Gosset handled communications (2.0 hours)
- D. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cut brush on either side of Shelton Ave under the powerlines (6 hrs total, including 2 hrs Paugussett Tr)
- E. Jim Taradine and Luis Isara cleared brush at Wesley Drive (4.0 hrs)
- F. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cleared a blowdown over the Bluff Walk (4.0 hrs).
- G. Bob Wood cleared the Rec Path at Pine Lake (1 hr)
- H. Bill Dyer worked on clearing the Paugussett Trail at Mayflower Lane (2 hrs)
- I. Staff repaired blazing along the Paugussett Trail.

- J. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 89 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

3. Projects

- A. **Paugussett Trail at Mayflower Lane:** Bill Dyer reported that he spoke with one of the neighbors about all the lawn waste that is being dumped on the trailhead. The neighbor is going to speak with his other neighbors. It's not clear which neighbor is doing the dumping. There are signs posted specifying that no lawn debris can be dumped in the open space.
- B. **Rec Path temporary road at Lane Street/Wesley Drive:** Bill Dyer reported that work has been done to widen the Rec Path into a temporary road, but it has not yet been paved.
- C. **Rec Path crosswalks:** Terry Gallagher sent a note to the City Engineer about the restriped crosswalks on Wesley Drive. The upper crosswalk does not line up with the curb cuts.
- D. **Indian Hole Bridge.** Teresa Gallagher reported that the CT DOT was in the planning stages for repairing the stone arch bridge at Indian Well State Park, over which the Paugussett Trail crosses, and that she had submitted a personal letter asking for the DOT to remove the double guiderail at the bridge that hikers need to cross over in order to hike the trail. Bill Dyer noted that the plans call for the inner stone walls on top of the bridge to be replaced with concrete, and this would change the appearance of the bridge. Teresa Gallagher researched the bridge and verified that it was a WPA project from the 1930s. Also, during construction the DOT will have signs saying no pedestrians may cross the bridge, which is part of the trail. Committee members thought people would just ignore the signs.
- E. **ATV report on Rec Path:** A Rec Path user was harassed and followed by a pair of men on ATVs riding illegally on the Rec Path near Wesley Drive. He took a video and called the Police. As he was speaking to the responding officer, the first ATV rider appeared in his car. The officer spoke with the rider. The pedestrian was under the impression that the officer was not going to ticket the rider, so he submitted the video to Conservation and stated that he and his wife would no longer be using the trails. Teresa Gallagher subsequently shared the video with the Police Chief and asked for more information. Bill Dyer also send an email to the Police Chief asking for enforcement. No one from the Police Department responded to either Teresa Gallagher or Bill Dyer.

Teresa Gallagher spoke with Jack Bashar, the Mayor's assistant, who said he was working on the matter and that the Police Chief had been on vacation earlier. Jim Taradine said that he was going to be pretty upset if the ATV riders get away with it. Mark Vollaro asked why the Police didn't confiscate the ATV. Members asked if a letter should be sent to the Police Chief. Bill Dyer responded that he already did send an email as the Trails Committee Chairman and was ignored.

- F. **Paugussett Reroute at Wiacek:** There is only about 100 feet of clearing to do, although a portion is very thick. It may be easier to do in the fall.

- G. **Well Spring Estate:** Teresa Gallagher said she had just walked the open space along the Far Mill River at Well Spring Estate off of Farmill Crossing. The Trails Committee had previously cleared a trail there, but it is very overgrown. Did the Trails Committee intend to maintain the trail? Committee members discussed and determined the path should remain open for river access. This could be a work party. Teresa Gallagher also noted that someone had recently brush cut about a quarter acre of the City Open Space there alongside the trail and she would be looking into that.
- H. **Paugussett Trail Reroute at Dog Park:** Trail Manager Polly Buckley had rerouted the trail onto the Rec Path near the Dog Park so that hikers could cross Rt 108 at the crosswalk. She has since retired from the position. Mark Vollaro asked what still needs to be done. Teresa Gallagher said that the State's blue oval sign needs to be shifted over to the new crossing location. Bill Dyer said he thought the original location was better. He was not at the meeting where the Committee agreed to the change. He and Chuck Sack from CFPA were the ones who originally came up with that route. Crossing the highway is not a problem in that location, the site lines are good, and crossing at the crosswalk has its own perils, including people taking right turns. Terry Gallagher concurred. Teresa Gallagher noted the route along the Rec Path isn't bad, and the new route does take the trail right past the parking area, which is simpler for regional hikers, although she thought the original route was fine, too. Bill Dyer asked committee members to take a look at the trail and see if it should remain where it is or should be moved back to its original location.
- I. **Shelton Day.** Committee members decided not to participate in 2019 Shelton Day since some members may be away.

4. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

- A. The next event is the Full Moon Hike on October 13 at 7:00 pm at Nicholdale Farm.

5. **Work Parties Scheduled:**

- A. The August 10 work party was moved to August 17, details to be announced. Trails Committee members will walk the trails to determine which areas need work.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

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