



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
March 1, 2017

Present: Bill Dyer (Chair), Bob Wood, Richard Skudlarek, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset

Absent: Sheri Dutkanicz, Sandie Skudlarek

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:38 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Richard Skudlarek made a motion to approve the February 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bob Wood. All were in favor.
2. **Public Portion:** No one wished to address the committee.
3. **Recent Trail Activities**
 - A. **Rec Path resurfacing:** Bill Dyer reported that the contractor has completed spreading the new surface material and we are waiting for the City to compact the new material with a big roller. Terry Gallagher said he would like about one c.y. of the material dropped off at the canoe launch to repair washouts. Bill Dyer continued by saying the contractor still needs to return to place boulders to block vehicles in three places: the canoe launch, the junction of Constitution Blvd and Rt 108, and the Meadow Street crossing where the bollard was.
 - B. **Blowdowns:** Richard Skudlarek reported that he and Jim Taradine cut a fallen tree on Turkey Trot Trail as well a tree over the Alternate Turkey Trot Trail.
 - C. **Meeting with Mayor:** Bill Dyer said he recently discussed several items with Mayor Lauretti:
 - a) Pine Lake Entrance: There is a safety issue in the parking lot created when the trees were cut recently, allowing cars to roll down the slope to the river; unsightly stumps were left behind; and the gatehouse needs to be removed. The entrance is an eyesore.
 - b) Far Mill Bridge idea, to cross the river opposite Sycamore and Maple Lane. The Mayor agreed with the concept but wanted to know how much it would cost and whether there are grants available.
 - c) Lane Street bridge work. Bill Dyer informed the mayor that that the Trails Committee is opposed to paving the emergency access road over which the Rec Path travels and the Mayor agreed.

- d) Huntington Center pedestrian safety: Bill Dyer brought up the hazards pedestrians face on a short stretch of Huntington Street between the former Huntington Street Café and the Common Bond Market. There are no sidewalks and pedestrians are forced to walk into the busy travel lane. The Mayor noted that one of the property owners is asking for some type of variance or zone change and now would be a good time to secure an area for pedestrians.

Terry Gallagher made a motion to send a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission with copies to the City Engineer, Street Committee, and the Mayor, asking for a contiguous pedestrian walk between the former Huntington Street Café and Common Bond Market. Seconded by Bob Wood. All in favor.

4. Projects planned for the near future

- A. 2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge:** Bill Dyer said he thought they were on track to hold the hiking challenge.
- B. Boehm Pond Trail Bridge:** Bill Dyer said the stream crossing is treacherous and they need a bridge. The Trails Committee does have some lumber that could be used.
- C. Meeting with Eversource Contractor:** Teresa Gallagher and Bill Dyer will meet on site with representatives of the Eversource contractor who upgraded the powerlines between Buddington Road and Meadow Street in 2016, impacting some of the trails. There was a discussion of the various gates and difficulties encountered during the utility work, including: contractors driving around the gates and creating openings for 4WD vehicles onto the trails, and gates relocked so that the Trails Committee lock was bypassed. Committee members had to cut the Eversource lock to gain access to City property.

Other issues for the meeting include abandoned construction fencing, obstruction of a stream with gravel resulting in the water being redirected onto the trail; the placement of large cobblestone onto a long section of utility road used by the Paugussett Trail; and the placement of ‘no trespassing’ signs on the gates at the trailhead with the kiosk directly behind the sign. Committee members recommended that a layer of processed stone ¾” minus be added to the utility road on top of the cobblestone so that it is easier to walk on. Also, where the new cobblestones stop, the utility road/trail continues and their equipment created large ruts that need to be filled in with stone so the Trails Gator can access the Wiacek property.

5. Guided Hikes/Events – Publicity and logistics

- A. Marshmallow Hike:** Sunday, March 5 at 1:00 pm, Nicholdale Farm.
- B. Trails Day:** Saturday, June 3, 10:30 am Rec Path and SIS Bypass Trail

6. Potential Work Parties:

A. March 11, 8:30 am, Boehm Pond Bridge construction. Trails Committee members only. To prepare, Bill Dyer, Richard Skudlarek, and Jim Taradine will meet on Friday, March 3.

B. March 25, 8:30 am. There are three potential locations: 1. Paugussett reroute Constitution Blvd to Wiacek through barberry; 2. Rec Path at Lane Street cutting brush; 3. Pearmain Path cutting saplings.

7. **Expenses:** Richard Skudlarek submitted a receipt for \$11.04 for gas.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm

The next meeting will be held on April 5, 2017.

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