



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
September 4, 2019

Present: Bill Dyer (arrived at 5:48 pm), Terrance Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Mike Flament, Jim Taradine

The meeting was called to order by Terrance Gallagher at 5:30 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes: Bob Wood made a motion to approve the August 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.**



Mark Vollaro and Jim Taradine cutting the Paugussett near Meadow Street

2. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. A work party was held at Nicholdale Farm (25 hours)
- B. A work party was held to clear the trail and scout a potential reroute of a section of the Paugussett Trail in the woods of the Wiacek property (27.5 hrs)
- C. Mark Vollaro gave Teresa Gallagher lessons on how to operate the gator and the two filled in Rec Path washouts near the Dog Park (5.0 hr.)
- D. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cleared Stockmal Trail (4.0 hrs)
- E. Mark Vollaro cleared Willis Trail, including 5 blowdowns (2.5 hrs)
- F. Bob Wood cleared the Rec Path along Pine Lake (2.0 hrs)

- G. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cut brush along the Rec Path from the Dog Park to Lane Street, and along the Paugussett from Shelton Ave to Constitution Blvd. (10 hrs, of which 1.0 was the Paugussett)
- H. Val Gosset handled communications (2.0 hrs).
- I. Mark Vollaro cut Turkey Trot Trail and Oak Valley Trail under the powerlines near Shelton Ave and cleared the Paugussett Trailheads at Okenuck Way and Princess Wenonah Drive. (4.0 hrs, 0.75 was Paugussett)
- J. Mark Vollaro cut a large blowdown on Nichols Trail (2.0 hrs)
- K. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro used the gator DR to cut brush in the Silent Waters area including the Paugussett Trail (1.0 hr Paugussett). (9 hours total)
- L. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 93 hrs** (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

Bill Dyer arrived at 5:48 pm

3. Projects

- A. Rec Path: A turn arrow is needed to direct people onto the Rec Path from the Lane Street bypass. The Rec Path also needs to be cleared at Silent Waters and near Lane Street.
- B. Tahmore Trail - The potential for a reroute of Tahmore Trail will be discussed at the Land Trust's meeting to be held on September 11. Trails Committee members were encouraged to attend.
- C. July 27 ATV incident on Rec Path: No one from the Police Department has responded to the phone calls and emails from Chairman Bill Dyer, Conservation Commission Chairman Tom Harbinson, or the Natural Resource Manager Teresa Gallagher asking for clarification. All three attempted to communicate with Police Chief Shawn Sequiera about a video taken of two men on ATVs on the Rec Path near Wesley Drive as they were harassing and threatening a man walking on the Rec Path with his wife. On tape, the first ATV rider claimed to be a police officer and admitted to driving around the Rec Path curve too fast. The responding officer, Manny Dominguez, was shown the video and knew who at least one of the offenders was, but refused to provide any enforcement under state or local laws for illegally riding an ATV on City property. All of the Trails Committee members expressed concern that the City provide strong enforcement of the no ATV's on City open space ordinance to protect the public.

- 4. **Eagle Scout Projects:** Korey Barber addressed the Committee. He is in the planning stages of installing a pedestrian bridge for the Paugussett Trail over Round Hill Brook at the Shelton/Monroe town line. The Shelton side is City open space and the Monroe side is Webb Mtn Park. The bridge would be 24 feet long and 4 feet wide with railings on both sides. Construction access to the bridge would be via the Shelton side and this would likely occur during the Spring of 2020. The ends would be anchored with rebar and resting on boulders. 2x10" boards would be doubled up to create beams, with three beams spanning the brook. Korey Barber will provide Teresa Gallagher with updates as the project progresses so that the Trails Committee can see the final design, and make any necessary modification; before the bridge is installed.

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the Korey Barber's 24'x4' bridge design over Round Hill Brook at the Shelton-Monroe border. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.

5. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

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

6. **Work Parties Scheduled:**

- A. September 14, 8:30 AM. Brush-trimming at Silent Waters. Meet at SIS parking lot.
- B. September 28, 8:30 AM. Paugussett re-route at Wiacek Meadow. Meet at Constitution Boulevard North. A mini-work party will be needed prior to this in order to move lumber and hardware for a small ditch crossing.

7. **Expenses:** Mark Vollaro submitted expenses for gas to power the DR mower and chainsaws (\$34.85).

Mark Vallaro will obtain a quote for a new Stihl gas-powered hedge trimmer to replace the old hedge trimmer which needs extensive repair (approx. \$280 in parts). The Committee may then get the old trimmer fixed, or purchase a lighter electric trimmer.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

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