

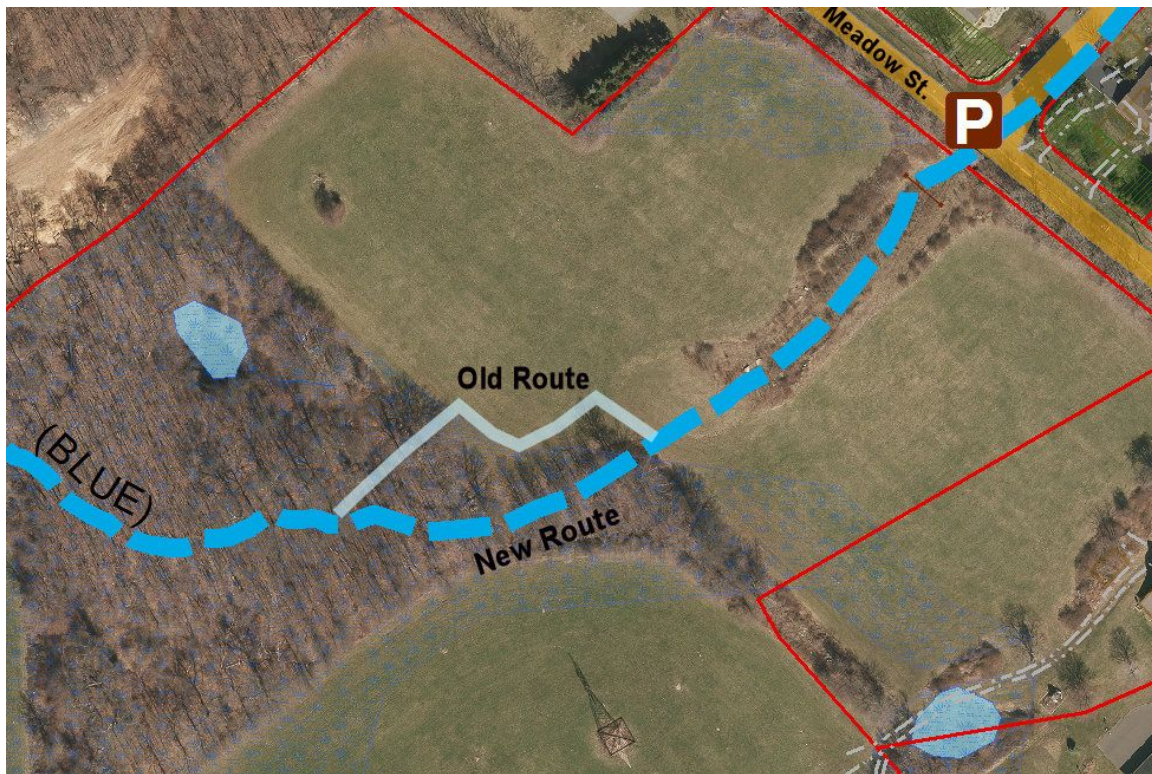


City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
October 2, 2019

Present: Bill Dyer, Terrance Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Mike Flament. **Absent:** Jim Taradine

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:31 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Bob Wood made a motion to approve the September 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.
2. **Membership Issues:** Bill Dyer reported that it is uncertain whether Jim Taradine will remain a member due to police inaction after a man was apprehended after riding his ATV on the Rec Path and harrasing a pedestrian on the path.



3. **Recent Trail Activities:**
 - A. A work party was held to clear the trails around Silent Waters (33.0 hrs)
 - B. A work party was held to reroute a portion of the Paugussett Trail at Wiacek (photo-map). Six people participated (24 hours).
 - C. Mark Vollaro gathered price quotes for a new hedge trimmer and picked up the new equipment (4.0 hrs)

- D. Val Gosset handled communications (3.0 hrs)
- E. Bill Dyer, Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset and Teresa Gallagher attended the Land Trust meeting to advocate for a reroute of Tahmore Trail (8 hrs)
- F. Staff reblazed the Paugussett Trail at Birchbank Mountain and the nearby road walks, installed signs at the Thoreau Drive and Princess Wenonah trailheads, and blazed the new reroute at Wiacek Meadows.
- G. Bill Dyer worked on the Paugussett reroute (2 hrs)
- H. Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 74 hrs (*Hours do not include events or meetings*)

4. Potential Projects:

- A. Clearing Drains. Bill Dyer thought the drains under the Rec Path should be cleared of leaves and debris before the fall rains arrive.
- B. Improve social media: Bill Dyer said he received a price for designing an app for the trails system and it would be about \$5,000. Teresa Gallagher noted her experience with the “Friends of the Cohos Trail” Facebook Group, which was very active with posts from both trail users and trail volunteers. The Shelton Trails Facebook Group had less interaction, and she encouraged Trails Committee members to join the group and make their own posts after they did independent work.
- C. Lane Street Temporary Road on the Rec Path: Teresa Gallagher added markings at the sharp left turn off of the temporary road after hearing that people were missing the turn. Terrance Gallagher said that so far there don’t seem to be many problems with the cars and pedestrians sharing the roadway. Teresa Gallagher noted there was a good drop-off at the edge of the temporary pavement and pedestrians will avoid walking too close to the edge.
- D. Rec Path at Lane Street meadow. The hayfield grass is intruding into the path. Mark Vollaro and a friend plant on cutting it with the DR mowing and then come back later on a weekday to treat the grass with herbicide.
- E. “No Mow Grass” for Paugussett. Mark Vollaro was interested in planting a species of low-growing grass along the Paugussett Trail where it crosses the hayfield at Wiacek Meadows. The existing grass would need to be killed off first. Teresa Gallagher said that based on her experience at the community gardens, which are surrounded by hayfields, the existing grass is very aggressive and will intrude into the special No Mow Grass.
- F. Tahmore Trail: Several members of the Trails Committee attended the recent Land Trust meeting to support allowing CFPA to reroute the trail. The Land Trust gave formal permission for the concept of rerouting the trail. Teresa Gallagher said that as CFPA Trail Managers for Tahmore Trail, she and Terrance Gallagher would work with CFPA to come up with a flagged route, and then go back to the Land Trust for final permission. It was her hope to have the route finalized by next April, when high school students are looking for community service.

5. **Guided Hikes/Events:**
 - A. The next event is the Full Moon Hike on October 13 at 7:00 pm at Nicholdale Farm. Terry Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, and Bob Wood will attend.

6. **Work Parties Scheduled:**
 - A. October 12 at 8:30 am: Rec Path clearing, including drains, leaf removal, and general pruning. Meet at the Dog Park. Terrance Gallagher will be the Work Party leader.
 - B. October 24 at 8:30 am: Boehm Pond. Meet on Winthrop Woods Road for general clearing and to repair illegal holes and ramps dug up alongside the trail. Work Party Leader: Bill Dyer.

7. **Expenses:** Terrance Gallagher submitted expenses totalling \$109.77 for an herbicide applicator, brushcutter accessories, and gas for power tools.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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