



**City of Shelton  
Trails Committee**  
Meeting Minutes for  
December 4, 2019

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

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

1. **Meeting Minutes: Bob Wood made a motion to approve the November 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor.**



**2. Recent Trail Activities:**

- a. A work party was held at Birchbank Mountain to clear a number of blowdowns and cut back vegetation (54 hours) (photo)
- b. A work party was held to clear Turkey Trot Trail and reroute a section of trail to avoid a steep hill (33.0 hrs)
- c. Mark Vollaro removed leaves from a Rec Path swale below Turkey Trot Trail (1.0 hr)
- d. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cut brush with the DR at Wiacek, winterized the gator, and removed leaves from the Rec Path (6.5 hrs total including 3 hrs on the Paugussett)
- e. Mark Vollaro cut brush at the Birchbank Mtn trailhead (1.0 hr)
- f. Val Gosset handled communications (1.5 hr)
- g. Teresa Gallagher worked on the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well (4.0 hr)

- h. Terry Gallagher removed blowdowns from the Paugussett at Birchbank (4 hrs)
- i. Bill Dyer cleared the Paugussett Trail at Wiacek (1 hr)
- j. Teresa Gallagher documented drainage patterns at the Dog Park during a rainstorm (1.0 hr).
- k. Mark Vollaro cleared a blowdown from the Nicholdale parking lot (1.5 hr)
- l. Staff reblazed the white trail at Boehm Pond and removed saplings, branches, and leaves along that trail; cleared a blowdown/brushy area on the Paugussett at Indian Well that was reported to CFPA; and cleared leaves from Tahmore Trail and steep sections of the Paugussett in the Poet Section of town.
- m. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 108.5 hrs** (*Hours do not include events, meetings, or staff time*)

### 3. Potential Projects:

- a. **Rec Path washouts at Dog Park:** Stormwater is coming down from the Dog Park area and running down the Rec Path, creating washouts that have been filled four times this season. The water has also created problems in the garden for a few years. Bill Dyer spoke with Ron Herrick at Parks & Rec, who agreed to have staff work on the drainage issue there.
- b. **Lane Street bridge replacement and use of Rec Path for temporary road:** Mark Vollaro reported that he spoke with a pedestrian on the Rec Path who stopped at Wesley Drive because they did not realize the Rec Path continued on towards Huntington Center. He thought there should be a sign telling trail users that the path continues along the temporary pavement. Teresa Gallagher received an email from a resident who lives near the trailhead on Lane Street and who had two concerns. First, people were trying to cross Huntington Street near Lane Street and there was no crosswalk. Terry Gallagher agreed and said this is something they've wanted for some time. Teresa Gallagher said she referred the comment to Eric McPherson, chair of BOA's Street Committee. The second comment was about people in cars having a hard time finding the trailhead, and this was causing a traffic issue. A sign for the trailhead was requested resembling the construction pedestrian signs by Wesley Drive. Val Gosset noted it was harder to see the trailhead for cars coming from the Wesley Drive direction, which is how cars have been approaching since the bridge work began. Bill Dyer noted that they had talked about removing a couple of trees at the trailhead for additional parking, which would make the trailhead more visible.
- c. **Stockmal Woods Shooting Range:** A proposal was submitted to Planning and Zoning to create a small, private shooting range at 371 Leavenworth Road known as Stockmal Woods. In 2002, the City of Shelton purchased a conservation and recreation easement over the entire property for \$450,000, funded partly by a DEEP open space grant. The grant contract with the State requires the City to enforce the easement and to maintain a trail across the property, which is called Stockmal Trail. The proposed shooting area would be located about 220 feet from the trail in an area surrounded by an existing

artificial berm, which would act as a backstop and provide protection.

Teresa Gallagher reviewed the easement language and sent a letter to the owner with the opinion that the shooting range was not allowed within the easement area for various reasons related to both safety and noise. DEEP staff also reviewed the application and concurred. She met with the owner, who intends to scale down the project so that it's just a few people shooting with portable shooting stalls. Teresa Gallagher has asked DEEP for their opinion as to whether any target shooting at all is allowed under the easement. In the meantime, she was seeking feedback from the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission. Committee members discussed the impacts to the hiking trail, including safety issues and the noise that would discourage hikers. **Terrance Gallagher made a motion for the Trails Committee to communicate to the Conservation Commission that they are concerned about proposed target shooting at Stockmal Woods degrading the recreational use of the nearby hiking trail. Seconded by Bob Wood. All were in favor.**

4. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

- a. Turkey Trot Trek, Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 pm (had been rescheduled from the original December 1 date due to storm). Hike Leader: Bill Dyer.
- b. Snowshoe Hike, Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm. Nells Rock Trail.
- c. Marshmallow March, Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm. Nicholdale Farm.
- d. Wildflower Hike, Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am. Birchbank Mtn
- e. Trails Day Hike, Saturday, June 6, 10:30 (raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm). Location to be determined.
- f. Full Moon Hike, Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm, Nicholdale Farm.
- g. Turkey Trot Trek, Sunday, November 29, 1:00 pm. Meet at SIS.

5. **Work Parties Scheduled:**

- a. No public work parties will be held in December. Trails Committee members will meet on the 14th to organize the storage barn.

6. **Expenses:**

- a. Terrance Gallagher submitted expenses totalling \$142.50 for fence rails, polycut brushcutter blades, and gas for power tools.
- b. Bob Wood made a motion to purchase 1000 more Shelton Lakes brochures for \$495. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.

7. **Scout Projects:** Bill Dyer will contact Land Trust president Joe Welsh to find out if they still have a Scout lined up to complete the new Pearmain loop trail over Jones and Land Trust properties. If not, it's something the Trails Committee could work on.

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.*