



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
January 8, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:29 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Bob Wood made a motion to approve the December 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.**
2. **Recent Trail Activities:**
 - a. No work parties were held due to the weather and holidays.
 - b. Terry Gallagher cut blowdowns on the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well (2.5 hrs)
 - c. Val Gosset handled communications (1 hr)
 - d. Teresa Gallagher flagged a proposed reroute of Tahmore Trail, west loop (6 hrs)
 - e. Mark Vollaro and Jim Taradine re-installed a granite post along the Rec Path at Constitution Blvd that had been struck by a vehicle (4 hrs)
 - f. Teresa Gallagher rerouted a short section of the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well's Hickory Hill to bypass a slick rock section (4.5 hrs)
 - g. Teresa Gallagher began work on a 0.1-mile reroute of the Paugussett Trail at the border between Birchbank and Indian Well to move the trail off of private property and away from houses. (15 hrs)
 - h. Teresa Gallagher cleared a fallen tree crown from the Rec Path at Pine Lake (staff)
 - i. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 29** (*Hours include travel but do not include events, meetings, or staff time*)
3. **Potential Projects:**
 - a. **Rec Path washouts at Dog Park:** Bill Dyer will speak with Dave from Parks & Rec.
 - b. **Lane Street bridge replacement and use of Rec Path for temporary road:** Teresa Gallagher clarified a complaint received from a neighbor prior to the previous meeting about traffic at the Lane Street trailhead. There is a problem both with the current detoured traffic trying to find the trailhead and also a long-term problem with parking and traffic at the trailhead. Committee members discussed enlarging the parking area by removing some trees that are mostly dead or dying.

- c. **Stockmal Woods Shooting Range:** A letter was sent to the landowner expressing the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission's opinion that target shooting near Stockmal Trail in the conservation easement area would be detrimental to the hiking trail and therefore not allowed under the easement. DEEP staff have not responded to the City's request for their opinion on the matter (the city signed a contract with the state for grant funding that requires the city to enforce the conservation easement).
- d. **Turkey Trot Bridge:** Committee members discussed the replacement of the narrow wooden bridge near the Constitution Blvd North kiosk. They would prefer a wider bridge to provide easier access for the gator. A bollard would then be needed to prevent vehicles from driving on the Rec Path. Bollards are also needed in several other locations where home-made wooden bollards have failed. Terry Gallagher will research commercial bollards for the next meeting. The bridge replacement could be a wider wooden bridge or a culvert. No decision was made.
- e. **Rec Path Posts:** Val Gosset shared a photo of one of the granite Rec Path posts covered with green algae. It was thought that some bleach and water and a scrub brush might work to remove the discoloration.
- f. **Huntington Wellfield Property:** Bill Dyer expressed a desire to turn the property located on open space along Huntington Street opposite Maple Lane into a park with facilities for cook-outs and a pedestrian bridge over the Far Mill River to connect with the Rec Path, similar to Old Mine Park in Trumbull. Teresa Gallagher shared a recent photo of the flooded Far Mill River at the crossing location. Terry Gallagher noted getting a bridge across that location would be a difficult project due to the floodway and floodplain. The park aspect is a subject for the Parks & Rec Commission.

4. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

- a. Snowshoe Hike, Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm. Nells Rock Trail.
- b. Marshmallow March, Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm. Nicholdale Farm.
- c. Wildflower Hike, Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am. Birchbank Mtn
- d. Trails Day Hike, Saturday, June 6, 10:30 (raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm).
Tentative location: Paugussett and Tahmore Trails, starting at the Indian Well beach. A lollipop-loop from the beach to the Tahmore Trail loop, then back to the beach access trail, with the option to continue north on the Paugussett to Blowdown Brook or possibly further. A final decision will be made at the February meeting.
- e. Full Moon Hike, Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm, Nicholdale Farm.
- f. 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 January. Trails Committee members will meet on the 11th to organize the storage barn.

6. **Expenses:**

- a. No expenses were submitted.

7. **Scout Projects:** Bill Dyer contacted Land Trust president Joe Welsh to see if the Land Trust still has a Scout lined up to create the west half of the Pearmain loop. They do.

Korey Barber has paperwork ready to be signed and submitted to Council for the Paugussett bridge at Round Hill Brook (border with Webb Mtn Park).

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6.57 pm.

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