



**City of Shelton**  
**Trails Committee**  
Meeting Minutes for  
February 5, 2020

**Present:** Bill Dyer, Terrance Gallagher, Mark Vollaro, Val Gosset, Bob Wood, Jim Taradine, Mike Flament. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager.

**The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:30 pm.**

1. **Meeting Minutes: Bob Wood made a motion to approve the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Vollaro. All were in favor.**



2. **Recent Trail Activities:**

- a. There were no public work parties due to the weather.
- b. About two dozen people attended the Snowshoe hike (9.0 hrs)
- c. Committee members met to organize the storage barn (19.0 hrs)
- d. Mark Vollaro cleared blowdowns on the Rec Path and Dog Paw Path (2.5 hrs)
- e. Val Gosset handled communications (1.5 hrs)
- f. Teresa Gallagher worked on a 0.1 mile reroute of the Paugussett at the Indian Well/Birchbank border (18 hrs)
- g. Terry Gallagher cut blowdowns on the Paugussett at Indian Well, including at the border reroute (8.0 hrs)
- h. Terry Gallagher prepared a 2019 summary of trail work (4 hrs)
- i. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro continued organizing the Trails barn (5.0 hrs)
- j. Teresa Gallagher cleared part of a blowdown on Tahmore Trail and installed Land Trust markers (2.0 hrs)
- k. Terry & Emma Gallagher refurbished map boxes (3.0 hrs)
- l. Terry Gallagher scouted trails for future work parties (4.0 hrs)

- m. Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza cleared blowdowns from Tahmore Trail (4.0 hrs)
- n. Mark Vollaro brought 3 old bags of concrete to the transfer station (1.5 hrs)
- o. Teresa Gallagher flagged two potential routes for an easier Well Trail cutoff at Indian Well to give visitors an alternative to walking down Indian Well Road (5.5 hrs)
- p. Mark Vollaro and Terry Gallagher attended CFPA's Winter Trails Workshop (12 hrs)
- q. **Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 99** (*Hours include travel, training sessions, and guided events, but do not include monthly meetings or staff time*)



Map: Paugussett reroute at Indian Well/Birchbank off of private property.

### 3. Potential Projects:

- a. **Rec Path washouts at Dog Park:** Bill Dyer spoke with Dave from Parks & Rec. They may be able to work on the drainage in March.
- b. **Turkey Trot Bridge at Constitution Blvd:** This bridge will not be upgraded until after removable bollards have been installed to prevent people from driving up the Rec Path. Terry Gallagher will be researching bollard designs.
- c. **Favorite Hike feature:** Teresa Gallagher suggested that committee members describe their favorite hikes in Shelton and she can write that up into a Shelton Life article and blog post. Members will email their info to Teresa.

### 4. Guided Hikes/Events:

- a. Marshmallow March, Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm. Nicholdale Farm. Hike Leader Jim Taradine.

- b. Wildflower Hike, Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am. Birchbank Mtn
  - c. Trails Day Hike, Saturday, June 6, 10:30 (raindate Sunday at 1:00 pm). Paugussett and Tahmore Trails, park at the Indian Well beach lot and meet at the trailhead across the street. This will be a lollipop-loop from the beach to the Tahmore Trail loop. This hike will celebrate the completion of the Tahmore loop reroute, scheduled for April 4. Leader: Terry Gallagher
  - d. Full Moon Hike, Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm, Nicholdale Farm.
  - e. Turkey Trot Trek, Sunday, November 29, 1:00 pm. Meet at SIS.
5. **Work Parties Scheduled:**
- a. Feb. 8, 9:00 am. - Rec Path clearing. Meet at the Pine Lake lot. Leader: Bill Dyer.
  - b. Feb. 22, 9:00 am. - Oak Valley Trail clearing. Meet at the Shelton Ave powerlines. Leader Mark Vollaro.
6. **Expenses:**
- a. Mark Vollaro submitted receipts of \$21.25 for a new shelf for the trails barn.
7. **Equipment:**
- a. Terry Gallagher obtained a quote of \$1522 from Knight's in Orange for a new heavy duty gas-powered brush cutter. The existing brush cutter was purchased in the 1990s and is getting unreliable. The quote includes a harness and various cutting heads. Committee members agreed one should be purchased. Terry Gallagher will obtain additional quotes.
8. **Trail Barn Replacement:** Committee members agreed that the existing trail storage shed ("the Barn") is too small and also fear the building could collapse, especially if it was hit by one of the cars pulling out of the tight parking lot at the Dog Park. The building has no floor and has recently been settling and bowing. The Mayor has agreed to consider a prefab replacement, but that corner is highly visible, so he wants it to look attractive, with an old New England style.

Members were in agreement that the new barn should be located on the other side of the parking lot where the old house used to be.

They were also in agreement that there should be garage doors on opposite walls so that the gator and mowing deck could be driven in one door and out the other. There should also be some windows for light since the building would not have electricity, but ideally the windows would be designed to discourage break-ins. They all preferred wood over vinyl siding.

Several members wished for a work bench area where they could sharpen tools and repair chainsaws without needing to take the equipment to their homes for a work area.

Bill Dyer passed around some photos of prefab barns/garages from Kloter Farms, located in Ellington, CT. They have some very attractive buildings that would look

appropriate at the highly visible Nells Rock corner.

The existing shed could then be used to store boards and other materials that are currently piled up outside next to the Dog Park and at member's homes.

Bill Dyer and other committee members are going to do some more research on this topic.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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