

City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
April 5, 2017



Present: Bill Dyer (Chair), Bob Wood, Richard Skudlarek, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset, Sheri Dutkanicz, Sandie Skudlarek

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:37 pm.

1. Meeting Minutes: Richard Skudlarek made a motion to approve the March 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. All were in favor.

2. Recent Trail Activities: Work parties were cancelled due to March snowstorms. Richard Skudlarek and Jim Taradine removed blowdowns across the Rec Path and Birchbank Trail (photo). The trees down across the trail at Birchbank were very large Tulip Trees and one of the trunks rotated back into a vertical position after it was cut. Terry Gallagher assisted some kayakers from Quebec who were on the Far Mill River, and he created a [blog post](#) with his photos.



3. Projects planned for the near future:

A. 2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge: Sandie Skudlarek completed a write-up of the Nells Rock lollipop loop. She noted some issues along the trail: 1. The old marker post next to the kiosk should be removed; 2. Potholes in the parking lot should be filled; 3. There were several wet areas along the trail.

Bob Wood completed his write-up of the Rec Path lollipop loop and noted that several rails at Silent Waters need replacing.

Richard Skudlarek walked the Birchbank lollipop loop and said it was impossible to cross Upper White Hills Brook on the Paugussett due to high water. He was able to cross by walking upstream to some large boulders.

Committee members will email their completed hike descriptions to Bill Dyer.

B. Kiosks: Sheri Dutkanicz passed out an example of a long-range guided hike schedule that could be posted in the trail kiosks. She has been posting

information on the kiosks except for a few kiosks that need repair (Hope Lake, Shelton Ave powerlines, Gristmill Trail).

- C. **Benches:** Sandie Skudlarek brought a color chart for painting the wood. Committee members deferred to her judgement on colors.
- D. **Plan of Conservation and Development:** Terrance Gallagher encouraged members to review the draft updates to the POCD and communicate their thoughts to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Sheri Dutkanicz expressed concern about the wording on developing “vacant land” and several committee members agreed. Jim Taradine said he would like to know what criteria P&Z members are using to approve the recent zone changes around town.
- E. **Bridge over Boehm Brook:** A site has been chosen for the bridge and committee members can construct the bridge at the next work party. Teresa Gallagher noted she is getting calls from parents of high school students looking for ten volunteer hours by May 1. Also, there is a pedestrian easement described as “10’ along existing trail” on an adjacent property. The existing trail is likely the old woods road that runs past Boehm Pond. If they have excess high school students they could explore that trail and see if it needs to be cut back.

4. **Guided Hikes/Events:**

- A. April 22, 10:00 am Wildflower Hike at Birchbank
- B. May 20 TBA – possible kayak or bike event
- C. June 3, Sunday, 10:30 am Trails Day. Lollipop Loop kickoff featuring the Rec Path.
- D. July-August No events
- E. Sept. 10, Sunday, 1:00 pm Tahmore loop
- F. Oct. 1, Sunday, Shelton Day
- G. Nov. 4, 7:00 pm Full Moon Hike (location not determined)
- H. Nov. 26, Sunday, 1:00 pm Turkey Trot Trek

5. **Potential Work Parties:**

- A. **April 8, 8:30 am, Boehm Brook Bridge.** Meet at Winthrop Woods Road.
- B. **April 22, 8:30 am, Paugussett reroute at Wiacek.** Meet at Const. Blvd No. Bring leather gloves, boots for mud.

- 6. **The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.** The next meeting will be held on May 3, 2017.

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