



City of Shelton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for
June 7, 2017

Present: Bill Dyer (Chair), Richard Skudlarek, Jim Taradine, Terry Gallagher, Sheri Dutkanicz (arrived at 5:46 pm), Sandie Skudlarek (left at 6:36 p.m.) **Absent:** Bob Wood, Val Gosset. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:36 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Terry Gallagher made a motion to approve the May 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Richard Skudlarek. All were in favor.
2. **Public Portion:** Conner Craft, a Boy Scout from Troop 25, expressed interest in doing an Eagle Scout project on the trails. After a discussion, he decided he was most interested in rebuilding the Paugussett Trail stairs off of Princess Wenonah Drive.



3. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. Fence rails and posts were replaced on the Silent Waters dam. This involved two full work parties.
- B. A Trails Day hike was held on the Rec Path (photo). Of the 26 people who attended, about half were from Shelton and the others were from Stratford, Southbury, Fairfield, Oxford, and Trumbull.
- C. Val Gosset created blog pages for the 2017 Lollipop Loop Challenge.

- D. CFPA continues trail reroutes and improvements at Indian Well. Boy Scout Troop 34 from Bridgeport worked on the Paugussett Trail reroute at Indian Well State Park and CFPA staff and volunteers worked on a new set of stairs along the Paugussett-Beach access trail.

4. Projects planned for the near future:

- A. **2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge:** Four more maps need to be added to the description. Richard and Sandie Skudlarek are working on a design for the path tag and will email some options out for voting.
- B. **Rec Path Fence:** Terry Gallagher said he thought the City should be hiring a contractor for the fence repairs.

5. Guided Hikes/Events:

- A. July 15, Saturday, 9:00 am Lollipop loop hike from Dog Park to Eklund Garden.
- B. August – none

6. Potential Work Parties:

- A. June 10, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Rec Path at Lane Street
- B. June 24, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Nells Rock Trail
- C. July 8 Paugussett Trail at Eklund Garden
- D. July 22 Paugussett Trail at Wiacek

7. Expenses:

- A. Terry Gallagher submitted receipts totaling \$204.86 for fencing materials and lollipops for the Trails Day hike.
- B. Richard Skudlarek submitted expenses totaling \$93.51 for fence rails.

8. Scout Projects:

Joe Singh from Troop 18 presented a proposal to reroute a portion of the Paugussett Trail off of the utility road north of Constitution Blvd North. The reroute is needed due to the new cobblestones that Eversource added to the utility road last year, making walking difficult. He has 7-8 Boy Scouts and four adults lined up for the project with tentative dates of July 1 and July 8 to begin the project. The new route is through heavy Japanese Barberry. The first part of the trail would remain on the utility road until it passes the gate, so a strip of woodchips will be placed on top of the side of the road to make walking easier. Bill Dyer noted that the Trails Committee will decide on the route and it will not be blazed blue until CFPA gives the OK. Teresa Gallagher previously determined a gps route around the wetlands and will attempt to flag the route through the barberry. If unable, the plan is to use the gator to flatten a route through the barberry, with the Scouts removing the flattened brush.

Richard Skudlarek made a motion to accept Joe Singh's Eagle Scout project. Seconded by Jim Tarradine. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be held on July 5, 2017.

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