



**City of Shelton
Trails Committee**

Meeting Minutes for
Sept. 6, 2017

Present: Bill Dyer (Chair), Richard Skudlarek, Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset, Sandie Skudlarek, Jim Taradine, Sheri Dutkanicz (arrived 5:48 pm), Bob Wood (arrived 5:48 pm). **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:39 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Sandie Skudlarek made a motion to approve the August 2017 meeting minutes as previously revised. Seconded by Rich Skudlarek. All were in favor.**
2. **Public Portion:** Joshua Andes, 43 Shelton Avenue, from Boy Scout Troop 11 addressed the Committee regarding a potential Eagle Scout project involving benches. He would construct one wooden bench set into concrete, preferably on the Silent Waters dam. The committee discussed a need for several other benches they have in storage which need to be rebuilt. (*Sheri Dutkanicz and Bob Wood arrived at 5:48*). Consensus was for one new bench to be constructed along with reconstruction of some of the older benches.
3. **Membership issues:** Bill Dyer noted the Committee needs someone to maintain the email list going forward. Val Gossett volunteered.
4. **Recent Trail Activities:**
 - A. A work party was held to clear out the Paugussett Trail between Rt 110 and Mayflower Lane. (8 people, 32 hrs total).
 - B. A work party was held to clear out overgrowth on the Rec Path/Paugussett Trail at the Silent Waters dam. (9 people, 32 hrs total).
 - C. Terry Gallagher removed trees across Long Hill Trail (3 hrs)
 - D. Jim Taradine and Rich Skudlarek removed a tree over Boehm Pond Trail (4.0 hrs)
 - E. Jim Taradine and Bill Dyer removed a tree over the Paugussett Trail near Four Corners (4 hrs total).
 - F. Total for the month = 75 hours* (*does not include hours by staff or CFPA Trail Managers for the Paugussett Trail*)
5. **Projects planned for the near future:**
 - A. **2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge:** The path tags were received. One hiker has submitted a completed form so far.
 - B. **Paugussett Tree Planting at Thoreau Drive:** The Paugussett Trail just north of Thoreau Drive passes through a narrow open space property between houses before heading down to Webb Mountain Park. Hikers report feeling

uncomfortable and at times confused because part of the city property is mowed and it feels like a private yard. Property to the west is wooded, but there needs to be delineation from the property to the east. **Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to recommend to the Conservation Commission that evergreen trees be planted in the open space north of Thoreau Drive so as to provide a natural screening for the Paugussett Trail. Bob Wood seconded the motion. All were in favor.** Teresa Gallagher said she would plant no closer than seven feet away from the property line so that the trees don't grow into the abutting property, and she would plant mostly native spruce.

6. Guided Hikes/Events:

- A. September 10: Tahmore Trail, 1:00 pm, meet at the Indian Well White Access Trail across from the beach entrance.
- B. October 1: Shelton Day Booth
- C. November 4: Full Moon Hike 7:00 pm, Nicholdale Farm. A campfire is an option.
- D. November 26: Turkey Trot Trek

7. Potential Work Parties:

- A. Sept 16 (rescheduled from the 9th): Paugussett reroute at the new Maybeck Open Space next to Wiacek Farm. Meet at Constitution Blvd North. The new route was cleared earlier in the year but has grown back.
- B. Sept 23: Turkey Trot Trail clearing. Meet on Shelton Ave/ Rt 108 at the powerlines.

8. Expenses:

- A. No expenses were submitted.

9. Equipment Issues:

- A. A wheel on the gator is losing air. Rich Skudlarek suggested taking the tire to Professional Tire.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 4, 2017.

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