



**City of Shelton  
Trails Committee**

Meeting Minutes for  
December 6, 2017

**Present:** Bill Dyer (Chair), Terry Gallagher, Val Gosset, Sheri Dutkanicz, Mike Flament, Bob Wood. **Absent:** Jim Taradine. **Also present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

**The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer, Chairman, at 5:40 pm.**

**1. Meeting Minutes: Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to approve the November 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bob Wood. All were in favor.**

**2. Recent Trail Activities:**

- A. A work party was held to clear the Paugussett relocation between Constitution Blvd North and Meadow Street through the new Maybeck open space. 24 hours total
- B. Bill Dyer cleared a tree off of the Rec Path – 1 hour
- C. Terry Gallagher brought the brush cutter to Knights for repair, installed a new type of blade, and cut more brush along the new Maybeck/Wiacek reroute – 3 hours.
- D. Teresa Gallagher worked on the ‘Poet Path’ section of the Paugussett – 13 hours
- E. Total hours: 41 hours
- F. The Full Moon Hike was held at Nicholdale Farm, with 31 hikers. Participants roasted marshmallows at campfire (photo).
- G. The annual Turkey Trot Trek was held the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- H. Dan & Dave Landscaping repaired washouts of the Rec Path near Lane Street and installed new drainage to prevent future washouts.



**3. Projects planned for the near future:**

- A. **2017 “Lollipop Loop” Trails Challenge:** Ten people have completed the challenge.

**B. Paugussett Relocation between Constitution & Meadow** (Maybeck/Wiacek). Bill Dyer inquired whether the gator could be driven down the new section with the mower to access the stretch that crosses the powerlines. Terry Gallagher said it could not, and didn't think it was necessary. He also brought up a possible relocation of the last remaining meadow section near Meadow Street. This section could be rerouted with some work through the woods, leaving only a short stretch that crosses the meadow. Bill Dyer said he also had been looking at that and agreed. This would eliminate the need to drive the gator and mower north of Constitution Blvd for trail maintenance. The short meadow/powerline sections could be handled with a brush cutter.

**C. Lane Street Bridge Repair** –Bill Dyer reminded committee members that the Lane Street bridge over Means Brook will be repaired and, during that time, traffic will be rerouted over the Rec Path to Wesley Drive. The Rec Path would be widened into a street, then restored after the new bridge was completed. There are stakes going down the middle of the Rec Path and some large trees have survey tape around them and he was worried that these trees were going to be cut.

Terry Gallagher thought that might not be the case, but it's not clear. It's also unclear whether this went before the Wetlands Commission yet. He wanted to read the Wetland meeting minutes, but they weren't online. He would rather see a temporary one-way bridge installed across Means Brook for alternating traffic. If vehicular traffic is rerouted onto the Rec Path, there are safety measures that could be taken. In New Haven they focus on pedestrian safety during construction projects. He shared photos of examples.

Bill Dyer said the plans show a stone wall being removed to widen the Rec Path, when the temporary road could be shifted to the north to avoid impacting the wall. Terry Gallagher said the consulting engineers may not be aware that the abutting property is owned by the city and believe they need to stay within the right of way. He wants to talk with Engineering or someone at the City about pedestrian safety. Teresa Gallagher suggested speaking with Jack Bashar, the Mayor's assistant. Terry Gallagher said it might save the City a lawsuit. Bill Dyer and Terry Gallagher agreed to set up a meeting.

**D. Paugussett Trail – Poet Section.** Paugussett Trail Managers Terry and Teresa Gallagher nicknamed the section of trail between Princess Wenonah and Thoreau Drive the "Poet Path" because it's in the so-called Poet Section of Shelton, and this name seems to be catching on. Teresa Gallagher has scheduled two work parties during the High School spring break with the goal of benching the trail into the side of the hill. If students attend those two work parties and then the Trails Committee's normally scheduled work party the following Saturday, they can get all ten hours of community service that are required by Shelton High School.

**E. Independent Trail Work.** Trails Committee members discussed how to make use of people who prefer working independently or who cannot attend work parties. Committee members thought a Shelton 'trail manager' was too big of a job, but noted that they did not always know what shape the trails were in because

members do not routinely monitor the trails. It was decided that a ‘**Trail Monitor**’ Program would be created where volunteers would be appointed to a specific trail or trail section. They would monitor the trail, do light maintenance, and report any issues to the Trails Committee. Teresa Gallagher will do a blog page where the names of the Trail Monitors will be listed and recognized.

**4. Guided Hikes/Events:**

A. Marshmallow March. A tentative date was set for Saturday, March 3 at 1:00 pm.

**5. Potential Work Parties:**

A. December 9, 9:00 am, a work party will be held to blow leaves off of the Bluff Walk at Riverview Park. Teresa Gallagher noted that the Litter Committee held a work party in September and removed a number of bags of litter from the trail.

B. December 23 – no work party will be held due to the holidays.

**6. Equipment and Expenses**

A. Winter Storage: Bill Dyer took some of the liquids home for storage so they don’t freeze. Terry Gallagher said he tries to run the gas-powered equipment dry this time of year so there is no gas in the tank.

**B. Approval of Invoice: Bill Dyer made a motion to approve the \$1600 invoice from Dan & Dave Landscaping for repairing Rec Path washouts near Lane Street, installing an 8-inch pipe across the trail, and installing 100 feet of swale for better drainage. Terry Gallagher seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**7. Eagle Scout Projects:**

A. Paugussett Poet Path Stairs: Teresa Gallagher is looking for a Scout to build stairs heading up the steep hill from Princess Wenonah Drive. She published a blog post describing what is needed and shared with Scout leaders.

**8. Comments by Members:**

A. Bill Dyer said there was a decking board on the Lane Street boardwalk that should be replaced.

B. Mike Flament described a bridge he saw while hiking at the Racebrook Tract in Orange recently.

C. Teresa Gallagher said she recently used the Trails Committee as an example of an effective committee during the latest meeting of the Anti-Litter Committee.

D. Bill Dyer

**9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.**

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