



City of Shelton
Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes for
October 3, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:34 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes: Val Gosset made a motion to approve the September 5, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bob Wood. All were in favor.**



2. Recent Trail Activities:

- A. The annual Full Moon Hike was held at Nicholdale Farm. Eighteen people joined. Hikers had good weather and Nicholdale Farm worked well for the hike. Participants walked to the Nicholdale camp and roasted marshmallows at the campfire. On the way back to the parking area the moon could be seen over the meadows.
- B. Teresa Gallagher backpacked the entire 13-mile Paugussett Trail, camping at Webb Mtn, to raise public awareness of this long-distance trail. An article appeared in the Herald.
- C. A work party was held to clear the Paugussett Trail on either side of Constitution Blvd (photo). 6 people (27 hours)

- D. A work party was held to clear the Rec Path in the Wesley Drive area. Then people (40 hours).
- E. Mark Vollaro and Jim Taradine mowed the Rec Path (7 hours)
- F. Mark Vollaro cut a large blowdown from the Paugusset Trail Poet Path section (1.5 hours)
- G. Mark Vollaro worked with Nancy at Shelton Highways and Bridges to have pot hole filled in at the Nicholdale parking area (3.5 hours)
- H. Jim Taradine and Mark Vollaro cleared the canoe launch at Silent Waters (3.0 hours)
- I. Mark Vollaro and Jim Taradine drove the Rec path to survey flood damage, also cleared a blowdown, and cut overhanging trees (8 hours)
- J. Terrance Gallagher cleared blowdowns on the Paugusset Trail at Indian Well (4 hours)
- K. Bill Dyer and Mark Vollaro repaired the split rail fence at Silent Waters and surveyed a washout under the powerlines near Turkey Trot Trail. (3.5 hours)
- L. Teresa Gallagher cleared blowdowns, picked up sticks, improved drainage, picked up litter, rerouted a section of trail, and cut back brush along the Paugusset Trail from the beach access at Indian Well to the Birchbank overlook. (7.5 hours)
- M. Teresa Gallagher created and installed five routed signs for Nicholdale Farm and Willis Woods to help guide hikers to the City's Stockmal Trail and Pearmain Path. (staff)
- N. Teresa and Terrance Gallagher installed a "Trailhead parking" sign at Nicholdale Farm (3 hours).
- O. Mark Vollaro inspected the Paugusset Trail from Round Hill Road to the blue/white connector. (1.5 hrs)
- P. Bill Dyer scouted out trail damage and arranged for repairs (2 hrs)
- Q. Mark Vollaro retrieved the washed out foot bridge at the powerlines near Turkey Trot Trail and replaced. (2.0)
- R. Total volunteer hours since the last meeting: 113.5** (*Hours do not include office work, events, time spent planning, or meetings*)

3. Projects planned for the near future:

- A. Rec Path drainage damage: The September rain storm caused wide spread flooding and erosion damage. Bill Dyer spoke with the Mayor about hiring Dan and Dave Landscaping to repair the washouts on the Rec Path. There are about ten locations that need repair, with washouts 4-6" deep. One on Lane Street is about 150' long. The biggest hazard is for bikes. Pedestrians can step over them. Bill Dyer plans on speaking with George Stackowicz at Highways and Bridges to have these areas rolled after they've been repaired. It looks like the work can be started next week. Terry Gallagher recommended using $\frac{3}{8}$ " minus fine topping stone to fill the ruts.
- B. Shelton Day: The Committee discussed whether to have the booth since many Committee members are not available to help man the booth, and decided to abandon the effort. Teresa Gallagher said she'll touch base with Joe Welsh at the Land Trust to see if they want to use the booth.

- C. Paugussett Trail at #180 Thoreau Drive. The twenty-foot-wide open space corridor reserved for the Blue Dot trail was surveyed and pinned earlier in the year. The trail steps were found to be partly on the property owned by #182, so Teresa Gallagher adjusted the trail route accordingly and recently planted holly shrubs and dwarf blue spruce trees five feet from the boundary line, giving them room to grow towards the boundary (photo). Due to the topography, she moved the trail closer to #178. The homeowner there objected to the reroute and has repeatedly blocked the new route and shifted boundary markings away from his property. She has sent multiple letters and spoken to the homeowner on the phone and in person. While the survey markings are still fresh, she wants to install two separate lengths of a split rail fence along the boundary, each segment being two sections long. This would look more attractive, provide comfort to hikers, and better establish the location of the property line.



- D. Dumping along Rec Path. Trails Committee members noted there has been a long-term problem with landscaping debris being dumped near the path from house #37 Wesley Drive. A gentle reminder to the homeowner would be appropriate.
- E. Chestnut Tree along the Lane Street fire access/Rec Path: Bill Dyer spoke with Bob Kulacz. They are not willing to pipe the drainage ditch and shift the road and they still plan on paving the road 22 feet wide to connect to a 16-foot wide road, then remove the pavement later. Committee members asked if the Mayor knew about the pavement. Bill Dyer didn't think so.
- F. Trail monitoring reports: Teresa Gallagher set up a contact list for the monitors and Val Gosset began contacting the trail monitors to check on the condition of the trails.

4. Guided Hikes/Events:

2018 Schedule:

- A. Buddington Loop. Saturday, October 20, 3:00 pm. Meet at Buddington Road Paugussett Trailhead. The route will be to follow the Paugussett to Hope Lake, and come back on other trails including the Rec Path and Nells Rock. Sunday Nov. 25, 1:00 pm

5. Potential Work Parties:

- A. Saturday October 13, Paugussett Trail at 178-182 Thoreau Drive to install a split rail fence and 4x4 post for a trail sign. Other possible tasks include the installation of the Paugussett signs at Round Hill Road and Rt 110.
- B. Saturday, October 27, TBA

6. No expenses were submitted.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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