

City of Shelton, Trails Committee
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved at the next Trails Committee meeting

Committee Members

Present: Bill Dyer, Chairman
Terry Gallagher
Sheryl Dutkanicz
Jim Taradine
Lynn Reid
Richard Skudlarek

A. Call to Order

Chairman Dyer called the Trails Committee meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

Lynn Reid MOVED to approve the minutes of the January meeting. SECONDED by Terry Gallagher. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

2. National Trails Day-discussion

Chairman Dyer asked the members what has been submitted. Lynn Reid said she would be doing the bridge-to-bridge hike. Terry Gallagher said he does not believe he submitted anything to the CFPA. There was discussion about whether Teresa Gallagher is planning the Eklund Gardens tour.

3. Planned Rec Path Projects for 2011

A. Status of the planned construction contract – 2a, 3c, 3b, 3a

Chairman Dyer said that construction has come to a halt due to the winter weather. I asked Bob Pruzinsky for an invoice for the work to date. This is the second invoice. The amount for this one is \$41, 055, which is 50% of the total cost of this section. Approximately 4160' has been cleared and a sub base of processed gravel and asphalt millings have been put in place. I plan to present this to the Conservation Commission for their approval.

Terry Gallagher MOVED to approve sending the invoice to the Conservation Commission for approval & signature. SECONDED by Richard Skudlarek.
Discussion.

All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

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Terry Gallagher said that he would like to walk the area where the contractor staked out alternative routes with the contractors to iron out some details.

B. Procurement of split rail fencing for Rec Path at Dog Park/other locations-Review contractor quotes

Chairman Dyer said that he went to Gene Sullivan, our procurement agent for the City, to ask him to get quotes for the 3-rail fence. We got three quotes from P&Z Fence (they did the fence along the Silent Waters Dam), Orange Fence, and Bob Pruzinsky & Brad Wells. The maximum will be 330 linear feet of locust posts and 3 pressure treated rails to be installed at 6 locations in no more than 3 designated dates.

The quote information was passed around and they discussed them in detail.

C. Existing Rec Path – Maintenance Issues

The fence at Eklund Gardens needs repair. There are lots of fallen limbs/branches in a number of areas. We should all go out to see what the trails look like after the winter and see what needs to be done.

D. Granite pillars and removable bollards

We will have to wait for better weather before they are installed. It was discussed whether the fencing should go in before the pillars/bollards are installed plus we should wait before the dog park is finished. We need the design of the removable bollards from Jim Tate.

The members reviewed pictures that were passed around.

4. Other 2011 Planned Trail Projects

A. Dog Park Status

Chairman Dyer passed around the two design specs from Jim Tate and Parks & Rec. There was discussion of where everything is in terms of the plan and the need to get with Ron Herrick (P&R).

Terry Gallagher said that we need to insure the drainage issue by the entrance is addressed this spring.

Lynn Reid said that Abbey Wright has drainage problems again in the same area that has sunk before.

B. Red Barn – Security issues and damage repair

There is some slight damage to the red barn. One board needs to either be replaced or glued back together.

Richard Skudlarek said he tried to open the door to the barn but because of the ground heaves pushing against the door plus the ice build-up made it impossible.

There was discussion of installing a door between the two sections.

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C. Gates and fences required

As far as we know we don't need any at this time.

Sheryl Dutkanicz asked how she could find out where are the bridges are so she can inspect them. They recalled that this was discussed last meeting and Sheryl said she'd inspect them, although she said she doesn't really know how to inspect them. She said that she wanted this as her project mainly to know where all of them are. Bill Dyer said he thinks we have about 11 bridges. Terry Gallagher suggested sealing the bridges using boy scout volunteers or Parks & Rec summer helpers.

5. DEP Trails Grant

The money from the grant has officially been received. We received \$73,000. We will have to match 20%. We can use the entire Rec Path contract as our match plus all the volunteer hours.

6. Guided Hikes

Lynn Reid said she is getting Shelton Patch emails. She emailed them about getting information about our trails on it. I did receive a name of a person from there that will be writing about our trails events. Today Mandy Orman, who is the owner of Paws & Kisses pet sitting service, who is very involved in community service as well as being on the dog park committee, called me seeking positive quotes about the dog park. It was very easy to give her a lot of good input. Since she writes for the Shelton Patch I suggested that she might want to do an article about hiking with your dog. We talked about having a spring guided hike with encouragement to bring their dog. This would include the hike either starting or ending at the dog park.

A. March

No hike is scheduled

B. April and May

After discussion they decided on a hike on April 17th at Birchbank at 1 P.M. Lynn Reid said she wants to have the dog hike in May.

7. Membership and Volunteers-Shelton Patch

Lynn Reid will submit trail information to the Shelton Patch, which is an on-line newspaper that is run by the New Haven Register.

Tape 1, Side B

8. Potential Work Party

A. Clear hiking trail near future Rec Path boardwalk (phase 3a)

There was discussion of determining which area needs the most work. Terry Gallagher asked for help in routing replacement signs for various trail areas. Recently two of the signs were ripped off the posts from Riverview Park. One of the posts had the bolts ripped off as well. Jim Taradine mentioned that we need to work on a design for the kiosks that are hard to get at. Sheryl Dutkanicz suggested that half of the committee work on the signs and the other half check out the status of the kiosks. Lynn Reid suggested we could email each other by March 12th to determine where best to concentrate. At the March 12th work party we would determine where we are going to go on the March 26th work party day.

9. Equipment and Expenses

A. Equipment to be acquired – camera, barn security system

We put in a requisition for a camera and the word is the Mayor wants the funds to come from the Rec Path grant money. The Conservation Commission has asked for an increase in our budget for the next fiscal year. The members discussed various items they would like to purchase in the near future.

10. Eagle Scout Projects

Chairman Dyer said at this time we don't have any Eagle Scouts looking for a project but I have a few things in mind when it does come up. Lynn added a few ideas for projects as well.

11. Discussion by members-Letters to Legislature on Liability Issue

Terry Gallagher said that we, along with the Conservation Commission sent letters to the legislators plus copying the Aldermen. The Aldermen took it up at their board meeting and made a motion stating the City was officially in favor of fixing the state laws. There were two hearings and our letter was listed as one of the groups in favor. It was a wide coalition of conservation groups, utility companies, towns, public works directors, and businesses. The only group against changing the liability was the CT Trial Lawyers Association. Our representatives, Jason Perillo and Larry Miller did their part in our favor. It looks like this will pass. The closing date is probably May 15th. Larry Miller sponsored one of the bills and Jason Perillo voted to pass this. We are hoping to get legislature passed regarding getting liability protection for volunteers.

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There was discussion amongst the members about liability regarding unleashed dogs on the trails. Sheryl said she hopes that Shelton has an ordinance regarding requiring dogs be leashed.

Sheryl Dutkanicz said she sent in the check for our space at Shelton Day. The date for the annual event is 10/2/11.

Lynn Reid asked how the pavilion at the Riverwalk is progressing. Discussion review of the spec drawings.

Bill Dyer talked about looking into creating an organization or group that could apply for grants, such as Friends of Shelton Trails, one that is not governed by the Conservation Commission or the City.

12. New Project – Disc Golf

Adam Goodman – professional Disc Golf player & Disc Golf course designer & environmental consultant

John DeRosa – Founder, Camelot Development

Mr. Goodman and Mr. DeRosa made a presentation to the Trails Committee with a 14-page color handout detailing what disc golf is, the cost and where it would be best suited. The presentation detailed the following:

- What is Disc Golf
- Benefits to Shelton
- Disc Golf in Connecticut
- The Course
- Costs
- Next Steps

John DeRosa and Adam Goodman were able to get approval in Bridgeport last year to build a disc golf course in Veterans Park. They built a 9-hole course and will be adding 9 holes in the spring.

The presentation will be continued at the Conservation Commission meeting right after this meeting.

13. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

Sheryl Dutkanicz MOVED to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Terry Gallagher. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Trails Committee

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