

CITY OF SHELTON
Trails Committee

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 5:30 P.M.

Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved at the next Trails Committee meeting

Committee Members

Present: Bill Dyer
Terry Gallagher
Jim Taradine
Lynn Reid
Richard Skudlarek
Sandie Skudlarek
Sheri Dutkanicz

Call to Order

Chairman Dyer called the Trails Committee meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lynn Reid, seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2013 and the January 8, 2014 Regular meetings. Vote – All in Favor – MOTION PASSED.

At this time, Chairman Dyer introduced Boy Scout Mark Sullivan, 46 Nichols Lane, to the Committee. Mark is here to discuss his Eagle Scout project. Mark suggested that he would like to build a kiosk for the trails. The Committee would like a kiosk built for Buddington, where the parking area is located, and individual kiosks for each of the Community Gardens. Discussion of requirements for the kiosks – cedar shingles and hinged doors with locks. Chairman Dyer reported that Mark has chosen to build the kiosk at Buddington and we will schedule this once all of his plans have been approved by his scout leaders and the Committee. Chairman Dyer would like a drawing of the kiosk for the Committee to review. Discussion. Mark thanked the Committee for meeting with him and will contact them as soon as the plans have been approved.

2. Recent Trails Activities – Scouted Potential Trail to Parallel Basil Brook and Removed Hope Lake Bridge Structure

Chairman Dyer reported that the trail to parallel Basil Brook has been scouted. Chairman Dyer reported that the Hope Lake Bridge structure has been taken down. Discussion.

3. Trails Day Hike for CFPA Booklet – Two Submitted

Chairman Dyer reported that the Trails Day Hike will be held on Saturday, June 7th at 1:00 p.m. and the Rain Date will be Sunday, June 8th at 1:00 p.m. Discussion. This event will be advertised in the CFPA Booklet.

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4. Relationship with CFPA – Lynn Reid

Chairman Dyer reported that Lynn Reid would like to be the CFPA Manager for the Paugussett Trail Extension from Indian Wells State Park to Buddington Road. Lynn Reid discussed with the Committee what CFPA requirements are regarding trails. Discussion. Lynn Reid reported that one of the requirements of CFPA is a verbal agreement from the Trails Committee to maintain and keep the trail clear. Discussion of getting another volunteer to manage the other end of the Paugussett Trail. Discussion of the duties of the CFPA Manager. Lynn Reid had to make a decision as to where the trail is going to go near Ecklund. CFPA will be holding a volunteer recruitment in the spring to work on the Paugussett Trail. Terry Gallagher reported that there might be a Spring Trails Demonstration on April 26th (date has not been confirmed) which could include building stairs, moving rocks or any other tasks needed. Discussion. Lynn Reid discussed bikers on the trails and would like to send letters to them to ask for volunteers to help with the trails. Discussion of what CFPA can offer the city.

5. Goals for 2014 – Terry Gallagher

Terry Gallagher reported on the 2013 Trails Committee Summary:

- Over 1,000 hours of volunteer service which included numerous work parties
- 8 guided hikes/events were held
- Shelton Day booth
- Spoke at the Alderman's Safety Meeting regarding the need for sidewalks in Huntington Center
- 7 new Eagle Scout projects completed in 2013
- Extension of the Paugussett Trail
- Held a Chainsaw Safety Clinic for the public
- Committee promoted Shelton's trails and open spaces with articles, blog and trailhead sign kiosks
- Received the 2013 Excellence in Conservation & Organization Award
- Painted the Red Barn
- Formal acceptance by CFPA for the Paugussett Trail

Discussion.

Terry Gallagher submitted a list of goals created by the Committee for 2014:

- Maintain Shelton's trail system
- Expand volunteer base
- Hire contractor to do regular maintenance on the Rec Path
- Extend the Paugussett Trail south toward Far Mill River
- Plan for the Lower Far Mill Greenway corridor
- Take down the Hope Lake Bridge and preserve the materials

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- Create connector trail from Fox Hollow Road to Birchbank Mountain
- Upgrade connector trail from Soundview Avenue to the Paugussett Trail
- Harden the wet spots on the Paugussett Trail
- Connect the Riverwalk to the Bluff Walk in downtown
- Add markers/benches along the Rec Path
- Work party at Ecklund Native Species Garden
- Establish hiking trail at French's Hill
- Plan for The Big Loop in White Hills
- Continue maintenance efforts with CFP and the Land Trust
- Maintain the Gator
- Update the trails equipment inventory
- Fix the trail kiosks
- Install trail signs
- Print trail t-shirts and hats for the volunteers
- Host 8-10 public events
- Print new trails brochure

Discussion.

Tape 1, Side B

6. Projects Planned for the Near Future

A. Bollards for High Traffic/Parking Entrances – Need Decision on Locations and Design

Chairman Dyer stated that we need 2-3 bollards, especially for Lane Street. Discussion of pricing and typed of bollards.

B. Facebook Moms Request – Sled Riding Slope

Chairman Dyer reported that he was contacted by a group of Facebook moms that would like the city of have an open space sled riding slope. Discussion.

C. Hiking Trail Loop Parallel to Basil Brook

Chairman Dyer reported that Lynn Reid, Richard Skudlarik and himself walked the hiking trail loop parallel to Basil Brook. Discussion.

D. Far Mill River Pedestrian Bridge for Huntington Loop

Chairman Dyer discussed building a bridge to cross over the Far Mill River near Huntington Loop. Discussion.

E. Bench Secured Next to Silent Water Dam – Spring

Chairman Dyer reported that bench will be secured in the spring.

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F. Fence Rails on Silent Water Dam – Spring

Chairman Dyer reported that the fence rails will be repaired/installed in the spring.

G. Complete Paugussett Trail to Bridgeport Avenue – Status

Chairman Dyer reported that the property involved with this project may be sold. Discussion.

H. Far Mill River Corridor

Terry Gallagher reported that UI has started working their sub-station on Pootatuck Place. Discussion.

I. Additional Hiking Trails

No report.

7. Guided Hikes/Events – Publicity and Logistics

A. March – Marshmallow March – March 9th

Chairman Dyer reported that the Marshmallow March was advertised in the newspaper. It will be held on Sunday, March 9th. Discussion of supplies needed.

B. April

Discussion of scheduling an event for April.

C. June – National Trails Day – June 7th

Chairman Dyer reported that National Trails Day is going to be held on June 7th.

8. Potential Work Party – Review Progress & Schedule During Meeting

A. Remove the Hope Lake Bridge Materials to Safe Storage Location

Chairman Dyer reported that the bridge has been taken down but all of the materials will have to remain at the site until they can be moved. Discussion of where to store materials and how to move it. The Committee will meet on Saturday, March 22nd to begin moving the materials.

B. Paugussett Trail Small Bridge Near Buddington – Spring

Chairman Dyer suggested using some of the materials from Hope Lake Bridge to build a small bridge near Buddington in the spring. Discussion.

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C. Bench at Silent Waters Dam – Spring

Chairman Dyer reported that the bench at Silent Waters Dam will be secured in the spring.

D. Rec Path Leaning Tree Removal – Status

Chairman Dyer reported that he has spoken with Parks & Rec regarding trees that need to be cut.

E. Restore Oak Valley Trail

No report.

F. Create Hiking Trail from Great Ledge to Oak Valley Trail

No report.

G. Create Hiking Trail Parallel to Basil Brook - Map

No report.

G. Other

No report.

9. Equipment and Expenses

A. Equipment to be Maintained – Gator Brakes & Power Tools

Chairman Dyer reported that the Gator is at Martinkas being worked on. Chairman Dyer suggested that the leaf blower also be serviced.

B. Equipment to be Acquired – Chipper/Shredder

No report.

C. Security Camera Update

No report.

D. Expenses to Submit – Must Be Less than \$100.00

No report.

10. Eagle Scout Projects – Planned and Potential

A. Trail & Trash Removal Near Pine Tree Hill Road – Identified for 2014

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B. Birchbank Trail Improvements – Approved

C. Bridge/Boardwalk over Basil Brook

D. Replace Hope Lake Bridge with Boardwalk

E. Buddington and 2 Community Garden Kiosks

F. Discuss Other Projects and Candidates

Chairman Dyer reported that there are currently 3 Eagle Scout projects underway.

Chairman Dyer reported that he will not be able to attend Wesley Sekelsky's Court of Honor on Sunday, March 16th at Vazzy's in Bridgeport. Discussion of another Committee member possibly attending.

11. Comments By Members

Lynn Reid would like to discuss the following at the next meeting:

- How to supply the various kiosks with information
- Re-route the Paugussett Trail Extension toward the field

12. Next Meeting and Adjournment

A motion was made by Lynn Reid, seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Solotruk
Clerk, Trails Committee

<http://sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com/>