

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday May 20th, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Moses at 7:00 PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Debra Romano, Joan Sears (by phone), Dominic Wilson, Barbara Anderson, Patrice Carson, Chuck Carson, and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 10/16/2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: Girl Scout Audra Dreyer has submitted a request to organize a Girl Scout activity at Camp Aya Po on July 13th from 10 AM until noon. The committee agreed to support Audra in her efforts. The scouts would participate in a short hike collecting any trash along the trail followed by crafts activity in the pavilion. The Girl Scouts are also still interested in helping to maintain the amphitheater.

I. Old Business

The wildflower garden planted last year by the Somers Girl Scouts is being over-run with invasive plants and needs significant work to recover and maintain it. The work required may be beyond the Girl Scout's capabilities.

Somers Boy Scout Matt Bernier had previously contacted the committee about potential Eagle Scout projects. Matt has selected a trail bridge at a stream crossing on the Somersville Mill Trail as his project. Matt will be contacted and a presentation about his plans will be made to the committee at a later meeting.

The committee was reminded that DEEP's CT Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program will be holding an event at Camp Aya Po on June 26th starting at 4:30 PM. Registration is required and the event is limited to 12 participants. Patrice Carson suggested that the parking area be closed to the public for the day so that all participants would have guaranteed parking.

Former committee member Pat Boudreau is again living in the area and is planning on resuming her efforts to maintain and beautify the area around the parking lot at Camp Aya Po. The committee supports and appreciates her work.

The Somersville Mill Trail requires work to cut back encroaching vegetation. A work party will be scheduled with possible participation by the Somers Boy Scouts.

VII. New Business

Election of officers:

Ann Moses and Richard Bailey agreed to serve another term. The position of vice was open and Patrice Carson agreed to fill this post. The slate then consisted of: Ann Moses – president, Patrice Carson - vice president and Richard Bailey – secretary. Barbara Anderson made a motion to elect this slate of officers. Chuck Carson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Earlier this year the town decided to close the Camp Aya Po parking area at sunset and re-open it the next morning. Patrice Carson reported that this has worked well so far with people volunteering to open and close the gate as well as reduced illegal activity at night. She wanted the committee to recognize and thank those who are helping out.

Todd Roland reported that Somers DPW has completed the electrical infrastructure at Camp Aya Po and is waiting for Eversource to install a meter and make the final connection.

Dom Wilson reported that unofficial trails are still being created and sometimes marked at Camp Aya Po. The one or ones doing this are not the owners of the adjacent winery although one of the trails does lead there.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday June 17th 2024 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

7:43 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Bailey - Secretary