

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday April 21st, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Moses at 6:32 PM

II. Members Present:

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

III. Audience: Emely Dreyer, Mary Ann Phillips, Dave Dunn and Audra Dreyer

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 9/16/2024 minutes as written. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: The Somers Boy Scouts requested permission to hold a cross-over ceremony at Camp Aya-Po. Permission was given and the ceremony was held on April 19th.

An e-mail was received informing the committee that the North and South Forest View trails are in poor condition and need work. Dom reported that the two bridges are still in good condition but vegetation needs to be cut back. Dom said he would address this issue either by himself or with the help of volunteers.

VI. Old Business: Joan Sears reported that the Somers Girl Scouts held a work party at Camp Aya Po on April 15th to improve the amphitheater. Over 20 girls including Audra participated along with leaders and some parents. They laid down recycled cardboard Girl Scout cookie cartons in the rows between benches to control weeds then spread a layer of wood chips over the cardboard. Now that this work is complete, Audra will be concentrating on her studies with the goal of getting all A's.

Dom reported that the Somersville Mill Trail is in fairly good condition. The section in Enfield has been worked on by Scantic Watershed volunteers. The Enfield section has one stream crossing which could use a bridge.

Patrice reported that there are a lot of people walking dogs at Camp Aya Po. Most are using leashes. Dom said that a person from MA has been parking in front of the gate prior to it being opened. He has spoken to them twice and they are now parking along the road and not blocking the gate. Patrice suggested that the sign saying that the area closes at sunset be changed to give a specific time since people sometimes argue about when sunset occurs. The proposed sign might be able to be changed to give longer hours in summer than in winter. Todd will look into this. Mary Ann Phillips reported that the pavilion steps are missing and the area cordoned off. It is assumed that the steps are being repaired. Patrice suggested that the Girl Scouts put up a recycling bin at the Aya Po parking area to raise funds. The scouts could decorate the bin and put up a sign saying that the proceeds benefit the Girl Scouts. Committee members and Audra thought this was a great idea.

VII. New Business: Ann suggested that CT DEEP be contacted to see if they could hold a Ct Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program again this year.

Ann reported that Sharon Prajzner is the new NCLT Stewardship Chairman. NCLT hopes to create a new trail in the Stevenson Woodlands Preserve across Mountain Road from Camp Aya Po. Those using the new trail would be parking at Camp Aya Po. Since Mountain Road is heavily used, it was suggested that Trail Crossing signs be installed when the trail is completed.

VIII. Next Meeting The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 19th 2025 at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment 7:19 pm. Motion to adjourn by Chuck Carson, seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary