

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday May 19th, 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, Dominic Wilson, Patrice Carson, Chuck Carson, Debbie Romano and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: Emely Dreyer, Anna Dwyer, Ulma Dwyer and Audra Dreyer

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 4/21/2025 minutes as written. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Old Business:

Trail Maintenance

Dom Wilson reported that in general the town trails are in good shape. The trails at Bald Mountain and Camp Aya Po do not need any work at this time. People using the trail sometimes use hand tools to trim back encroaching vegetation. The North and South Forest View Trails are also in fairly good shape but could use some work prior to the NCLT Trails Day hike on June 7th. The Somersville Mill Trail also needs some work as far as the Enfield line. Dom will send an email to volunteers who can respond using the Doodle scheduling app. so that he can schedule a work party when volunteers are available.

Aya Po Signage

Todd has new signs to list opening and closing times to replace the original dawn to dusk signs. The times can be changed depending on the season. The signs will be located at the entrance and at the trailhead and will be installed in the near future. Patrice suggested adding security cameras but Todd questioned their effectiveness due to poor resolution and the possibility that they could be stolen.

Aya Po Mulch

Mulch has been delivered but needs to be spread by Somers DPW. Also the gazebo steps have been repaired.

Girl Scout Bottle Bin

Audra Dwyer reported that the Somers girl scouts are planning on installing a bottle and can recycling bin at Camp Aya Po as proposed at the last meeting. The bin will need a hole big enough for the cans and bottles and have a lock securing the lid to prevent it from becoming a trash bin. It will also need to be secured to ensure it is not stolen. Various possible designs were discussed. The proceeds collected will be used to fund local girl scout activities. The scouts will paint the bin and have it clearly marked. The committee determined that if the scouts are to benefit from the recycling, then they need to be responsible for maintaining and emptying the container on a regular basis. Audra said that her troop only includes five girls this may be difficult to carry out. The possibility of including other local troops with the proceeds distributed between them was discussed.

VII. New Business:

A Learn to Fish with CARE/Boating event will be held on Friday August 8th at Camp Aya Po from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. This event worked out well last year and Ann would like it to be scheduled as a recurring event. The Aya Po parking area will be closed to the public on the day of the event to accommodate participants. All participants will need to pre-register on the DEEP website. Children over 16 years old will need a fishing license to participate. This event is listed on the Somers recreation website calendar.

VIII. Next Meeting The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday June 16th 2025 at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment 7:26 PM. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary