

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday May18th, 2026, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Lower-Level Conference Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Moses at 6:33 PM

II. Members Present:

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

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 4/20/2026 minutes as amended. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence:

VI. Old Business:

Todd reported on the condition of the gazebo at Camp Aya Po which has tilted and is experiencing vandalism. He shared photos with the committee showing its present condition. He said a decision needs to be made whether to restore it to a safe condition by pushing it back in place using a loader and repairing the vandalism, or removing it. Committee members indicated that it has seen little use by the public. Joan Sears made a motion that the town DPW repair the gazebo. Ann Moses seconded. Motion passed with one nay vote.

Patrice and Dom are still needing someone to help with opening the gate at Camp Aya Po. Marty Smith's son is a Somers firefighter and might live in the area and be able to help. Todd will speak to Marty's wife Cathi and to the fire chief to find out his contact information. Todd said that expanding on-road parking is still a possibility including moving the stone wall back to allow head-in parking but that would probably not occur until next year. Signs designating spaces might encourage this type of parking instead of parallel parking which does not increase capacity. Patrice again suggested that the sign saying the area closes at sunset be replaced with one designating a closing time which would remove any confusion or argument with the public.

The streetlight in the Aya Po parking area is still not working. Todd will once again submit a work order to Eversource to complete this work.

Dom reported that the Somersville Mill trail is in good shape between the parking area and the large stand of Japanese knotweed. Beyond that it would need work. The trail does not appear to see much use.

VII. New Business:

Ann saw a segment on Channel 3 about Grace Trails. May is National Grace Trails month. The trails are self guided and are meant to promote mental health. Ann suggested that we might create one of these trails in Somers. She will do some research to find out more information and report back to the committee.

Due to Todd and others not being available for the scheduled June 15th meeting, it was agreed to cancel the June meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting: The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday September 21st 2026 at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment: 7:07 PM. Motion to adjourn by Ann Moses, seconded by Richard Bailey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary