

**Open Space and Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2014**

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Members Present: John Curran, Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Wes Smith, Shawn Burgmyer, Todd Rolland, Kathy Devlin Pat Boudreau, Eric Anderson, Barbara Anderson, and Patrice Carson.

Review of the Charge for the Committee:

1. Identify and formulate a chart with the various trails in the Town of Somers.
2. Develop a strategic plan for clean up and maintenance of the trail systems.
3. Agree upon a start day for identification, clean up, and document the reports to the Board of Selectmen.
4. Discuss and suggest a plan for communications to be used to keep residents informed.

Review of Voting Eligibility:

Kathy Devlin read the names of the members, and outlined that the members who would have voting eligibility were those who were residents of the town and also registered voters. At present, that includes: Barbara Anderson, Eric Anderson, Richard Bailey, Pat Boudreau, Patrice Carson, Jan Collins, Ann Moses, and Wes Smith. Kathy Devlin serves Pro-temp. Todd Rolland represents the Town, Director of Public Works and Recreation.

Committee Needs:

1. Current map of Camp Aya Po, and any available trail maps.
2. Richard Bailey has offered to use his hand-held GPS unit and survey and assess the trails before the next meeting.
3. Roster of members
4. A more clear idea of the "Plan"- Kathy Devlin asked the group to feel free to provide input to the Board of Selectmen.
 - a. Who are the trails serving?
 - b. Multi-use? (Riders, bikers, hikers, families, small children, cross-country skiers, etc.)
 - c. Will motorbikes be allowed? ATVs? (The group consensus was that some trails are narrow, and currently motorized vehicles have been disallowed, the plan works and it might be best to stay without motorized vehicles. Someone was going to check to see if mountain bikes are allowed on the state trails.
 - d. Signage- this would include NO ATV signs, etc. as well as a future kiosk where hikers could see an outlined map as well as paper copies of the trail.
5. Suggestions were made that in order to improve, maintain, and mark the trails it is important that logs are placed to prevent entry of motorcycles, etc. More logs should be used. At present the logs have been moved. Todd Rolland assured once complete assessment of buildings has been done (should occur Nov. 12th), the DPW would replace barriers and add logs.

6. Good marking needs to be done to the trail system. It will probably require a different set of medallions for Camp Aya Po trails. Todd Rolland will check with what is available and being stored in Land Use.
7. Clarification and agreement on advisory role to planning. In the past the committee would speak with the Planning Commission regarding open space, advising on subdivision open space, trail usage, etc. Kathy Devlin commented she saw no reason it would be other than that, but would take this discussion back to the Board of Selectmen.

Open Discussion:

1. Todd Rolland provided an overview of State requirements associated with the grant and the imminent removal of those buildings currently located on the assigned open space. Discussion followed on future use of the Camp property. It was explained that some representation from the OSTC would serve on the Camp Aya Po Committee.
2. The committee discussed various trails and clean up needed. They asked Shawn Burgmyer to present the plan to the Boy Scouts with a request to help when the cleaning and marking of the trails comes to fruition.
3. Sean Burgmyer described his Eagle Scout project to the committee.
4. The Town of Somers trails were discussed with various associated needs for brush removal, marking, etc. Ideally they would like the connectivity that is possible from the Fire Tower at Soapstone Mountain all the way to Camp Aya Po. Ideally they would like to reproduce the trail that existed between the Stevenson property and Camp Aya Po.
5. In discussing the future of Camp Aya Po, Ann Moses suggested that Town representatives visit the Bolton Lake site, and Town of Vernon property to see how they developed that site. It fits what could occur with Aya Po.

Election of Officers:

Ann Moses as Chair of the Open Space and Trails Committee: Nominated by Richard Bailey. Seconded by Eric Anderson. Unanimously approved.

Barbara Anderson as Vice Chair. Nominated by Ann Moses. Seconded by Patrice Carson. Unanimously approved.

Richard Bailey as Secretary. Nominated by Patrice Carson. Seconded by Eric Anderson.

Next Meeting:

December 15th, 2014 at 7 PM. The group by consensus will hold the Open Space and Trails Committee meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Devlin, secretary pro-temp.

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.