

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Open Space and Trails Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:00PM**  
**Town Hall Lower Conference Room**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:02PM

**II. Members Present:**

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Patrice Carson, Wes Smith, Dick Hutton,, and Chris Boucher.

**III. Audience:**

Kevin Boudreau

**IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 11/16/15 Minutes as written. Seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

**V. OSTC Project Plan Review:**

Task 1.5. The committee has not received any feedback from DEEP on the grant application for improvements to the South Forest View trail. Patrice Carson will follow up with DEEP to determine the status of the application.

Task 2.0. Connwood Inc. has been informed that the Somers Board of Selectmen has accepted their bid for creation of a Forest Management Plan for Camp Aya Po. The work is expected to begin in March.

Ann Moses will create and distribute a new 2016 Project Plan, deleting completed tasks and modifying open tasks from the 2015 Plan to reflect work to be done in 2016.

It was suggested that a task be added for removal of debris from Hurd Lake.

**VI. Correspondence**

None

**VII. New Business**

First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini has confirmed that committee members serve a one year term. All committee members present agreed to continue serving on the committee for 2016. Members not present will be contacted to determine if they also wish to continue serving on the committee.

All committee officers expressed an interest in continuing in their present positions. Patrice Carson moved that the current slate of officers be approved for 2016. Wes Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Officers are: Ann Moses – Chairman, Barbara Anderson – Vice Chairman. Richard Bailey – Secretary.

The committee will consider assigning specific responsibilities to members to decrease the chairman's existing work load.

Barbara Anderson and Patrice Carson informed the committee of Somers Department of Public Works removing trees on the north side of Camp Rd. in front of Camp Aya Po as a first step in changes to Camp Road including improved drainage, improvement of the boat launch area adjacent to the dam and improving sight lines by flattening the knoll east of the Aya Po entrance. Committee members expressed concern that leveling the road may lead to increased speeding. This issue will be discussed with Todd Roland at the next meeting.

Chris Boucher updated the committee on the questionnaire for Somers residents being prepared by the Camp Aya Po committee. The questions will pertain to the portion of Aya Po not protected by the Conservation easement. Hurd Lake is entirely within the protected area. The questionnaire is expected

to be distributed thru social media by the end of February, as well as being available at selected locations in town and the town website.

Richard Bailey and Wes Smith informed the committee of problems with off-leash dogs at NCLT properties in Somers resulting in NCLT instituting a new leash policy for all its trails. It was recommended that all dogs at Aya Po be leashed and under the handlers control at all times. Chris Boucher will look into existing town ordinance's to see if Somers has an existing leash policy for public areas. Signs may be posted or modified at the Aya Po parking area following Chris's review.

### **III. Next Meeting**

Chairman Ann Moses moved that the next meeting scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> be moved to Monday February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. Richard Bailey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IX. Adjournment**

8:10 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Chris Boucher, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary