

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:00PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:00PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Patrice Carson, Wes Smith, Dick Hutton, Pat Boudreau, Todd Rolland and Chris Boucher

III. Audience:

Andy Phillips, Scoutmaster, Somers BSA Troop 387

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 4/18/16 Minutes as written. Seconded by Wes Smith. Motion carried.

V. OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.0, Richard Bailey will create an updated Aya-Po trails map which reflects the existing system and will be posted at Aya-Po to replace the existing outdated sign.

Task 1.3, Wes Smith will be co-leader of the National Trails Weekend hike in Somers to assist hike leader Albie Grant (NCLT). Chris Boucher will help to promote the event.

Task 2.0. The completed Camp Aya-Po Forest Management Plan has been approved by the BOS and has been posted on the Somers town website.

Task 2.3, A walk along the proposed route of the Lakeside Trail will be held on June 2nd to allow committee members to develop plans for constructing the trail; including two footbridges; later this year.

Task 2.6, Todd Rolland reported that the Somers Fire Department has spent time removing trash and debris from Hurds Lake and its shoreline. This work included the use of a diver to remove material from the lake. Committee Chairman Ann Moses proposed that an OSTC sponsored work party be held in August to continue this work. Saturday August 20th was set as a tentative date.

Task 3.4, A work party was held on May 21st to work on the North and South Forest View Trails. Six volunteers from the Reddington Rock Riding Club spent the morning removing overgrown vegetation and clearing the footway.

Task 3.6. The committee is awaiting the final paperwork from DEEP for the approved Recreational Trails Program grant for improvements to the South Forest View Trail. The planned improvements are expected to begin this fall.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. New Business

Ann Moses and Barbara Anderson attended the May 18th meeting of the Camp Aya-Po Strategic Planning Committee. They gave a summary of the discussions including preliminary results from the Camp Aya-PO survey. Since the survey results indicate that the residents are in favor of including swimming as an activity, the OSTC committee will review the Conservation Easement to determine what is allowed and not allowed regarding swimming within the conservation easement area which includes the entire lakeshore.

Ann Moses suggested that the OSTC create a quarterly newsletter to be posted on the town website. The purpose would be to inform Somers residents of updated information on OSTC activities, planned upcoming events, and articles of interest concerning town owned open space. Ann will discuss this proposal further with Chris Boucher as well as explore ways to improve communication with residents.

The committee discussed potential Eagle Scout projects at Camp Aya-Po. Andy Phillips informed the committee that there are presently two scouts exploring potential projects. The committee suggested projects associated with the planned Lakeside Trail as possibilities. Andy said that in addition to Eagle projects, all scouts are expected to be involved in community service and that the troop would be willing to help with OSTC activities at Camp Aya-Po. Andy also expressed an interest in joining the committee when new members are added next year.

III. Next Meeting

Monday June 20, 2016 @7:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment

8:32 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Wes Smith, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary