

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Open Space and Trails Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 24, 2016, 7:00PM**  
**Town Hall Lower Conference Room**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:04PM

**II. Members Present:**

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

**III. Audience:**

Selectman Kathy Devlin

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

Motion by Wes Smith to approve the 8/15/16 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

**V. Correspondence:**

Final approval for the grant to improve the South Forest View Trail was received from DEEP on 10/18. The grant specifies that the work must be complete within two years. (Task 3.6)

**VI. OSTC Project Plan Review:**

Tasks 1.1, 1.2. Chris Boucher gave an overview of a planned upgrade to the town Recreation Department website. The purchased software package may limit our ability to modify the site.

Signing up on the website puts you on the Recreation department email notification list.

A tab will be added on the left side of the page for Open Space and Trails. Opening the tab will give information including trail descriptions and maps. Chris has received some content and asked committee members to make recommendation for additional content including photographs. Tab will provide information on Soapstone Mountain and NCLT properties as well as town owned open space.

Scheduled SOCTC work parties and hikes will be added to the website calendar. The public will be able to pre-register for work parties and events and be added to a volunteer or hike notification list. The calendar could also include events from other groups such as Northern CT Land Trust, Shenipsit Striders, Reddington Rock Riding Club and mountain bike organizations.

Wes Smith suggested that a standard format be used at the top of each featured property including a brief overview, access restrictions, recreation opportunities, etc.

The website also includes a link to the Recreation Department Facebook page, which can be used to post event notices and photos.

It was suggested that QR Codes be included on trailhead signs and the planned information kiosk linking to information and maps on the website.

The upgraded website is scheduled to be up and running by early spring.

Task 2.2. A work party to construct the two new foot bridges on the Lakeside Trail at Camp Aya-Po has been scheduled for Saturday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. If work is not completed on the 12<sup>th</sup>, a second work party will be held the following day.

Task 2.6. During the hike on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, it was observed that debris still exists in Hurds Lake, including a section of dock and a large wooden cable spool. Todd will bring to the attention of the Somers Fire Dept. for removal.

Task 2.7. On Sunday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> a work party replaced the old YWCA boundary markers at Camp Aya-Po with new Town of Somers boundary markers. Four SOSTC members and volunteers as well as 7 members of Somers BSA Troop 387 participated. A new task will be added to the SOSTC Plan to walk the boundary once a year to check for incursions onto town property or other problems.

Task 3.2. Because the grant for funding to replace the bridges has just been approved, bridge construction originally scheduled for completion in 2016 has been re-scheduled for spring 2017.

### **VII. Old Business**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> a public hike was held at Camp Aya-Po. Twenty-two people enjoyed an informative walk around Hurds Lake after which six hiked an additional loop over Perkins Mountain. It was suggested that another similar hike be held in March.

Ann reported that Wyatt Garber is currently raising funds for his eagle project to build the information kiosk at Camp Aya-Po.

On Sunday

### **VIII. New Business**

Ann Moses reported on the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Somersville Mill Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee which she attended. At that meeting there was discussion of the possible creation of a linear trail along the Scantic River. Ann also reported that she has added a new task (5.0) to the SOSTC planning document for possible future SOSTC involvement.

Todd Roland presented a proposed schedule for SOSTC 2017 meetings.

Motion by Wes Smith to accept the 2017 meeting schedule as proposed. Seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion passed.

### **VIII. Next Meeting**

Monday November 21st, 2016 @7:00 pm.

### **IX. Adjournment**

8:34 pm. Motion to adjourn by Dick Hutton, seconded by Wes Smith. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary