

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Open Space and Trails Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 21, 2017, 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, Andy Phillips, Dick Hutton Patrice Carson, Wes Smith and Todd Rolland

**III. Audience:**

Ed Sawicki and Monty Moses

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

Motion by Dick Hutton to approve the 4/17/2017 Minutes as written. Seconded by Ann Moses. Motion carried.

**V. Correspondence:**

None

Ed Sawicki introduced himself to the committee as a candidate running for First Selectman. Ann gave Ed a brief overview of the committee's history and mission.

**VI. OSTC Project Plan Review:**

Task 2.2, Wyatt Gerber reported by audio link that he has received enough donations to complete construction of the kiosk. Donations were received from both the Somers Rotary Club and the Somers Board of Selectmen. He also received the donation of a sheet of Plexiglas which reduced the overall cost of the project. He expects the kiosk to be completed in September. Somers DPW will coordinate with Wyatt to install a suitable base for the kiosk.

Task 2.5. Dick Hutton reported that he has talked to Ken Albert about our plan for creating a butterfly meadow at Camp Aya Po. Ken is a retired landscape architect and has expressed an interest in participating in the project. Ken has requested to see a copy of the Aya Po Forest Management Plan which has a section proposing the butterfly meadow. Ken also plans to attend the next committee meeting. Todd Rolland expressed concern about security during the creation of the meadow. Activity which can be seen from Camp Road may encourage vandalism. Andy Phillips reported that poison ivy along the Lakeside Trail on the south side of Camp Road is becoming a problem. He asked permission to spray along the trail. It was suggested that a vinegar solution be used instead of a commercial herbicide.

Task 3.1. Richard Bailey reported on three work parties held during August to construct the upper bridge on the Forest View Trail. Prior to the work parties Somers DPW transported all the required lumber to both work sites. On August 12<sup>th</sup> nine SOSTC and Reddington Rock Riding Club volunteers completed the bridge abutments and stringers. The following Saturday ten volunteers from the same organizations installed the decking and railings. During the last work party on August 20<sup>th</sup>, four volunteers completed the entrance ramp on the east end of the bridge and created a temporary step on the west end so that the bridge can be safely traversed by hikers. An additional work party will be planned in the next couple of weeks to complete the remaining work.

Options for completing the lower bridge were discussed. Somers DPW had created a corduroy road across the area to enable them to transport building materials to the upper bridge site. Although one option is to leave this road in place to use as a crossing, there was concern that the sections of old telephone poles used in its construction would deteriorate fairly quickly lying directly on the muddy ground. The second option is to remove the poles and then build the bridge and boardwalk as originally planned. The third option is to leave the roadway in place to allow equipment access to the upper site if required and build the new boardwalk and bridge beside it. This was viewed as the best option if there is room in the town owned corridor for both boardwalk and roadway. Todd Rolland will visit the site to see if this option is viable.

Todd reported that \$3,877.83 has been spent to date for materials and that Somers DPW personnel spent one week working on the project.

Task 3.2, It was suggested that the trail crossing at Mountain View Road could be improved by having the trail go straight across the road where the North Forest View section emerges from the woods, then parallel the road on the south side up to the point where it again enters the woods. This short section would be within the

right of way for the road. Having a painted crosswalk created on Mountain View Road was suggested but turned down by DPW due to the requirement for a traffic study.

Task 3.3, Somers DPW has cleared the small parking area on the north side of Mountain View Road.

**VII. Old Business**

The Porta-Potty at Aya Po has been removed.

Todd reported on progress on the Somersville Mill demolition. Work is expected to begin this week.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The September meeting is being re-scheduled to Monday September 25th at 7:00 PM.

**X. Adjournment**

8:30 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Ann Moses. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary