

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 16, 2018, 7:00PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:03PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Andy Phillips, Dick Hutton, Wes Smith, Chris Boucher and Todd Rolland

III. Audience:

None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Barbara Anderson to approve the 2/26/2018 Minutes as written. Seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence:

The Shenipsit Striders have contacted the Recreation Dept. about the possibility of holding a trail running event or series of events on town owned open space.

Mountain Tree Service contacted OSTC about the possibility of logging at Camp Aya Po to remove white ash trees being killed by Emerald Ash Borer and other diseases. Although the Aya Po Forest Management Plan did not recommend any logging, the amount and location of white ash on the property will be determined before the next committee meeting.

VI. Old Business:

The BOS has reappointed the current committee members with the exception of John Curran and Eric Anderson.

The Trail Guide has been added to the Somers Recreation Dept. webpage. The guide will be updated and expanded as needed.

Chris is working on being able to add work party and trails events to a calendar on the Rec. Dept. webpage.

A. OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 3.5, Ann Moses will be leading a Reddington Rock Riding Club work party on May 20th to clear the Forest View Trail in preparation for the Trails Day hike on June 2nd. The Trails Day hike will be led by Ginny Patsun and Albie Grant (NCLT)

Task 2.1. DG Graphics is creating a plaque recognizing the Somers Rotary Club for funding the trail bridge on the Lakeside Trail at Camp Aya Po. The plaque will be mounted on the bridge when complete.

Task 2.5. The committee discussed the creation of a wildflower meadow at Camp Aya Po south of Camp Road as suggested in the Forest Management Plan. It was agreed that this would require a major effort to create the meadow including removing invasive plants and preparing the site. It would also require yearly maintenance. It was agreed that for the present the area should be mowed with a brush hog once a year to prevent the area from slowly reverting to woodland. It was also suggested that native shrubs beneficial to wildlife could be planted possibly as a scout project. This would require less effort and minimal maintenance compared to the wildflower meadow which might still be created in the future.

Task 2.6. Richard Bailey will lead a public walk at Camp Aya Po sometime in May. The exact date is to be determined.

IX. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 21st at 7:00 PM.

X. Adjournment

7:58 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Chris Boucher. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary