

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 17, 2018, 7:00PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:01PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Patrice Carson, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Wes Smith, Dick Hutton, Andy Phillips, Dom Wilson, and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 8/20/2018 Minutes as written. Seconded by Wes Smith. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: Todd Roland reported that the Somers BOS has awarded the OSTC \$1,500 from the town's USA Fund.

VI. Old Business:

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1, Trail Guide. Dick Hutton passed out samples of a draft trail guide prepared by DG Graphics. The tri-fold brochure is in color on letter size stock. Dave Marti will print and fold in color for the price quoted earlier. Some overviews posted on-line have been shortened due to space restrictions. The committee found the changes acceptable. The committee agreed that the brochure looked very good and suggested several changes be made. The cover photo should be of a Somers trail and not the stock trail boardwalk shown. Richard Bailey will look for a suitable photo. Each trail overview should include the organization responsible for management of the trail. The order in which trails are listed should be rearranged so that the most popular appear first. An overview for the proposed Somersville Mill trail needs to be written to fill the blank space provided. Richard Bailey will write a draft overview. The addition of QR codes to the brochure were discussed. It was decided that although they might be used at trailheads, they will not be included in the brochure.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

The bell has been taken down and is being stored at the DPW facility

Andy Phillips reported that the scouts may do a project on pollinators next year and could help develop the pollinator friendly area in the field south of Camp Road.

Section 3 – Forest View Trail

The lower bridge and boardwalk is completed. Some work needs to be done at the far end to improve drainage. The trail is again becoming overgrown in areas and needs clearing.

Section 5 _ New/Potential OSTC Areas

The perimeter fence erected during demolition of the Somersville Mill has been removed. The town has not to date received any proposals for development of the mill site.

Dick Hutton has looked at the beginning of the proposed trail along the river and reported that a dense growth of tall vegetation has obliterated the path for some distance and will need to be cut. The committee plans to have a usable trail in place within two months.

Todd Roland said the Somers DPW will create a defined parking area on the south side of the river where the trailhead will be located. Richard Bailey said there is a pile of old telephone poles at NCLT's Whitaker Woods which might be used as a border.

VII. New Business

Ann Moses reported that 11 domestic ducks were recently left at Camp Aya Po by an unknown person driving a pickup truck. The Somers animal control officer was contacted and was able to capture all the ducks. The ducks were temporarily kept in Ann's chicken coop until permanent homes could be found.

Possible uses for the \$1,500 USA Fund were discussed. Wes Smith made a motion to allocate \$500 from the fund for the printing of up to 5,000 trail brochures. Seconded by Patrice Carson. The motion was passed unanimously. Other possible uses for the remaining funds were materials for construction of foot bridges on the new Somersville Mill trail and trail signage on various trails.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday October 15th at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

8:10 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary