

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 15th, 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, Dom Wilson, Chris Boucher and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Wes Smith to approve the 9/17/2018 Minutes as written. Seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Old Business:

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1, Trail Guide.

Long lead times are not required for submissions to be put on the Rec. Dept. Hiking and Trails Events calendar. Chris makes all entries and will normally confirm within 48 hours that information has been entered. Trail maintenance work parties can also be included.

Proposed changes to the draft Trail Guide supplied by DG Graphics were reviewed. An alternate cover photo of the boardwalk at McCann Family Farm has been given to DG Graphics to potentially replace the original stock photo. Other changes were to re-order the descriptions based on popularity or by organization; to add the organization that owns the trail to each description and to allow DG Graphics to add their name as the printer. A trail description has been written for the new Somersville Mill Trail and is being reviewed before being submitted to DG Graphics. Dick Hutton will try to have an updated sample for the next meeting.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

Ann Moses has arranged to have the amphitheater weed wacked and checked for problems as a community service project.

ATV's have been entering the trail system through the barrier at the parking area. Todd was asked to look into decreasing the space between the concrete blocks at the entrance to decrease this problem.

Dominic Wilson has cleared encroaching vegetation from the Old Shenipsit Trail between the parking area and Mountain Road. Barbara Anderson reported that both the Lower Trail and the Lakeside Trail also need work.

Section 3 – Forest View Trail

A group of four equestrians has ridden the trail and reported to Ann that the two new bridges worked well.

Section 5 – Somersville Mill Trail

Dominic Wilson has cleared the entire trail so that is passible and easily followed. A large stand of invasive Japanese Knotweed near the start of the trail will create an ongoing maintenance challenge. Yellow diamonds will be used to mark the trail to be consistent with the existing DEEP trail. A work party will be scheduled to improve the trail. Bridges will be required at several locations to cross wet areas or small tributary streams. Dick Bailey will create a draft trail map by the next meeting.

VII. New Business

Chris Boucher will write a draft of the Open Space and Trails content for the new town Quarterly publication and distribute to committee members for additions or changes. The content needs to be finalized next week. Chris also recommended that the committee look for ways to increase community involvement in SOSTC activities in the future.

Dominic Wilson reported that the Shenipsit Striders are looking for a new location for their annual moonlight run to be held in late January or February. All agreed that Camp Aya Po would be a good location due to its trail network, adequate parking and the pavilion as a good spot for a gathering after the run. Todd Roland said that the fire department might be able to have a fire truck available so that a bonfire could be built. Dom said that the striders were also considering a trail walk the same evening to allow for non-runners including children

to participate. The walk would start before the run, probably at 7:00 with the run at 8:00. Hot drinks and glow-sticks could be provided. In the past the event has drawn up to 20 participants.

Ann Moses reported that a community service template has been created to record information on community service projects related to trails and open space

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday November 19th at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

8:15 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary