

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 19th, 2018, 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, Andy Phillips, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Dick Hutton, Dom Wilson, Chris Boucher and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Barbara Anderson to approve the 10/15/2018 Minutes as written. Seconded by Chris Boucher. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Old Business:

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1, Trail Guide.

Dick Hutton handed out draft copies of the brochure which included the changes agreed to at the last meeting. The only other change required before printing is the addition of the Northern CT Land Trust as the owner of Skyline Scenic Area.

The committee discussed ways to distribute the trail guide brochures including local businesses.

The next issues of the new Somers Connections brochure are scheduled to come out in February and May. Chris suggested that trails be highlighted in the May issue rather than the February issue since that is when people will be thinking about outdoor activities. The committee agreed with this plan. Chris also suggested that the May issue feature the various organizations which create and maintain the local trails.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

Clearing and trash removal from the amphitheater has been completed as a community service project. Two tipped over benches need to be repaired or removed. Trees need to be trimmed or removed to improve the view of the lake from the fireplace area.

Todd Roland reported that the old field south of Camp Road has been mowed.

Dominic Wilson reported that there is a large tree across the Perkins Mountain Trail near the junction with the Old Shenipsit Trail. Hikers have started to create a herd path around this blowdown.

During tree removal along Stafford Road, Asplundh has removed trees with boundary markers. Dom Wilson

Section 5 – Somersville Mill Trail

Dominic Wilson has used a leaf blower to clear leaves from the trail. The trail needs to be blazed as the next step in its development. Todd Roland has looked at a pile of old telephone pole sections at NCLT's Whitaker Woods which might be used to outline the new parking area at Somersville Mill.

VII. New Business

Dominic Wilson reported that the Shenipsit Striders moonlight run will probably be held on February 16th. Since the Striders will need a permit from the town to hold the event at Camp Aya Po, a motion was made by Barbara Anderson and seconded by Ann Moses to open discussion of plans for the event. All participants will be required to sign town liability waivers. The event can be advertised on the town recreation website. The event will include a public walk as well as the run. In the past there has not been a large turnout. A fire could be built in the old fireplace for a gathering and warming location following the run and walk. Todd Roland said the public works department will insure that the parking area is plowed if needed and that a porta-potty will be provided. Ann Moses made a motion that the OSTC write a letter to the BOS recommending that they approve a permit application from the striders for this event. The motion was seconded by Chris Boucher and passed unanimously.

Todd Roland submitted a draft meeting schedule for 2019. It was agreed that there will be no meeting next month and the next meeting is Jan. 28th, 2019. Barbara Anderson suggested that the number of meetings be reduced from 12 to 9 per year. It was agreed to eliminate the committee meetings for February, July and December. Motion by Richard Bailey to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as revised. Seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday January 28th at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

7:51 pm. Motion to adjourn by Chris Boucher, seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary