

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20th, 2019, 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, Dom Wilson, Dick Hutton, Drew Kukucka, Chris Boucher and Todd Roland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Barbara Anderson to approve the 4/15/2019 Minutes as written. Seconded by Chris Boucher. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: Albie Grant has requested help in leading a Trails Day hike on June 1st in Somers. He is looking for someone to help spot his van at Soapstone as well as an assistant leader to lead a shorter hike at Whitaker Woods if needed.

VI. Old Business

North South Forest View Trail maintenance.

Five volunteers from RRRC have cleared the trail in preparation for the Trails Day hike on June 1st. Ann reported that the trail needs some trail markers re-set and there is a very wet muddy section between the entrance on Mountain View Road and the lower bridge. There is continuing ATV traffic both on the trail and crossing it above the upper bridge as previously reported. With the wet weather this activity is causing damage to the trail. Drew reported that there is a deer stand located in the state forest in close proximity to the trail and facing the town property. The north section needs some downed limbs cut and removed from the trail.

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1 - Somers Trails Brochure

Dick Hutton distributed copies of the brochure as well as plastic holders to committee members for placement at business and community locations around town. Dominic Wilson has already placed brochures at the Somers library. Todd will put them in the senior center and town hall. One open brochure will also be fastened to the Aya Po kiosk. This task is now closed.

Task 1.4 - Check property boundaries for encroachment

Todd has spoken to the town engineer about tree cutting on Bald Mountain that may encroach on town property. Todd reported that the town GIS map is not accurate in this area and without a survey, determining the property boundary would be difficult. Todd will send a letter to the land owner informing him of the possible encroachment.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

Some benches at the amphitheater are falling over and need to be removed. Todd said that eventually the town will remove all the benches.

Section 5 – Somersville Mill Trail

On Tuesday Apr. 23rd Dom and Richard walked the trail to plan the work to be completed during a subsequent work party. In addition to clearing vegetation and marking the trail, several wet areas or tributary streams will need foot bridges constructed.

VII. New Business

Drew reported that a property owner at the corner of Root and Stafford roads has contacted the conservation commission about preserving a large area of woodland with frontage on Root Road and Stafford Road and abutting Camp Aya Po for a short distance. Drew will contact NCLT acquisition chairman Rick Dewey about this opportunity. The Somers open space fund most likely lacks sufficient funds to preserve the property without additional funding sources.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday June 17th at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

7:52 pm. Motion to adjourn by Barbara Anderson, seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary