

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17th, 2019, 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, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Patrice Carson, Dominic 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 5/20/2019 Minutes as written. Seconded by Chris Boucher. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Old Business

Trails Day - Nine participants joined leader Albie Grant on the NCLT sponsored hike to Soapstone Mountain.

Patrice has talked to the landowner who is interested in preserving a tract of woodland at the corner of Root and Stafford roads as reported by Drew at the last meeting. She is currently interested in obtaining a conservation easement which does not include public access to the property. NCLT will also talk to her about her options.

ATV's continue to be a problem on South Forest View Trail. It was suggested that Somers DPW put a barrier of boulders or tree trunk across the trailhead to limit ATV access as well as erect a sign.

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1 - Somers Trails Brochure

Somers Trails brochures are being distributed to local businesses including Knitting Creations, Hometown Kitchen, Dunkin Donuts and Somers Star Hardware. Brochures have also been placed at the town hall, library and senior center. Todd has added a brochure to the kiosk at Camp Aya Po. It was suggested that people distributing brochures should follow up in two weeks and refill displays if needed.

Task 1.4 - Check property boundaries for encroachment

Todd has sent a letter to the landowner who may have cut trees on town land on the south side of Bald Mountain. To date, the landowner has not replied.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

Patrice reported that Pat Boudreau has been beautifying the Camp Aya Po parking area by planting flowers and maintaining the flower beds she has created.

People have been entering Camp Aya Po after sunset. A group of approximately 30 people recently had a bonfire in the amphitheater.

Dom has used his weed whacker to cut back vegetation along the Lower Trail and Lakeside Trail.

Section 5 – Somersville Mill Trail

Dom reported that the Japanese Knotweed that was cut earlier this year has grown back quickly and has made the trail impassible. This will be a continuing issue. A work party will be scheduled for July 13th to work on the trail.

VII. New Business

Patrice attended a presentation on gipsy moths. Many oaks have been killed by several consecutive years of defoliation. The dead oaks located near trails and public areas will constitute a safety hazard as limbs begin to fall.

VIII. Next Meeting

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

IX. Adjournment

7:51 pm. Motion to adjourn by Barbara Anderson, seconded by Drew Kukucka. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary