

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday June 15th, 2020, 7:00PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

Due to Covid 19 concerns the meeting was held outdoors behind the town hall with members observing social distancing.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:00 PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Wes Smith, Dominic Wilson, Dick Hutton, Joan Sears, and Todd Roland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Wes Smith to approve the 11/18/2019 Minutes as written. Seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried with Joan Sears and Patrice Carson abstaining.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Old Business

Dom Wilson reported that the Shenipsit Striders hosted their evening trail run and walk in February at Camp Aya Po. The weather cooperated and approximately 70 people from Somers and surrounding towns attended, enjoying hot chocolate and s'mores around a fire following the run and walk. Ann Moses suggested adding a column to the sign-up sheet next year asking participants how they learned about the event.

Todd Roland reported that the town hall is expected to re-open on Monday June 22nd.

OSTC Project Plan Review:

Task 1.1 - Somers Trails Brochure

Dick Hutton reported that with local businesses being closed due to Covid 19 trails brochures are temporarily not available to the public. Prior to the shutdown many brochures were being taken from local businesses including Dunkin Donuts and Hometown Kitchen. The boxes will be checked when businesses start to reopen later in the month.

Section 2 – Camp Aya-Po

Dom has cleared some vegetation at the amphitheater benches. He reported that there is graffiti on some of the benches. Lat night parties at Aya Po continue with a fire on at least one night.

Section 5 – Somersville Mill Trail

The trail is seeing some use but could use some clearing, especially the stand of Japanese Knotweed.

VII. New Business

Ann introduced Joan Sears who is the newest member of the OSTC replacing Andy Phillips. Joan is on the Somers Girl Scouts Service Committee and coordinates fundraisers for the Girl Scouts.

Election of Officers

Wes Smith nominated Ann Moses for president, Barbara Anderson for vice president and Richard Bailey for Secretary. Patrice Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Hutton spoke about a possible bike path in Somers which he has been thinking about for some time. The path would be aimed toward casual riders such as families rather than serious long-distance riders who tend to stay on the roads. The surface would be paved or hardpack. The proposed route could start at the firehouse and run to the parking area at the Somersville Pond. Committee members agreed that the biggest challenge would be acquiring the right of way across a substantial amount of private property along the river. If this idea moved forward it would require a large grant for funding.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday September 21st 2020 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

8:08 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary