

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday Nov. 16th, 2020, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Auditorium

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Barbara Anderson, Wes Smith, Dick Hutton, Joan Sears, Patrice Carson (via. phone), Dominic Wilson, Mike Blouin, Eileen Blouin and Todd Roland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Wes Smith to approve the 10/19/2020 Minutes as written. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: Chuck Carson has sent a request to join the committee. The committee voted to approve the request which will sent on to the BOS for final approval.

VI. Old Business

Many trails brochures are being taken by customers at Knitting Criations on Springfield Road.

Dom Wilson reported that the street light at the Aya Po parking area is not working. Todd Roland will look into it.

Dom also reported that the Shenipsit Striders will not be holding their night-time run this year due to Covid.

It was also reported that there is a tree leaning across the Old Shenipsit Trail at Camp Aya Po. Hikers are passing under the tree. The tree should be removed or the trail relocated around this unsafe area. Richard Bailey will look into fixing the problem.

The white blazed loop trail on Bald Mountain is hard to follow and needs additional blazes. The committee agreed that using white paint instead of the original metal markers is acceptable. This work will probably need to be done in the spring when the weather is warmer.

Mike and Eileen Blouin have been added to the committee.

VII. New Business

Butterfly Meadow

Todd Rolland has been in contact with Lauren Desrocher who is president of the Ellington trails Committee and has supplied information on starting a butterfly meadow. She also recommended contacting Jane Seymour, steward for DEEP's Belding Wildlife Management Area.

The committee discussed plans for the proposed butterfly meadow. The initial area to be planted would be a small portion of the existing field. It was suggested that improving habitat for native bees would be important. Flowers and shrubs that attract bees as well as butterflies should be planted to supplement native plants already in the area. Todd said that Somers DPW could work with OSTC volunteers to cut back multiflora rose and other invasive but probably not eliminate them altogether. Concerns were raised about potential use of herbicides such as Roundup contaminating local groundwater and nearby wells. It was agreed that cutting invasives yearly without the use of herbicide could keep them in check. It was mentioned that since birds use multiflora rose for cover, other large native shrubs should be included to replace them.

Wes Smith suggested that the Somers Rotary Club might be willing to give financial support to the project. Joan Sears said that girl scouts looking for Silver Award projects might be interested in working with the committee and the Rotary Club to plan and create the meadow. Joan suggested that the girl scouts visit the area early next year as a first step. The project would need a leader to coordinate the overall effort.

Ann reported that a local couple is interested in becoming OSTC volunteers. She will forward their contact information to the volunteer coordinator.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday April 19th 2021 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

8:00 pm. Motion to adjourn by Wes Smith, seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey
Secretary