

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday Sept. 20th, 2021, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Lower Conference Room

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, Dick Hutton, Joan Sears, Dominic Wilson, Mike Blouin, Eileen Blouin, Michael Maynard, Brad Dolben, Maureen Parsell, Patrice and Chuck Carson (by phone), and Todd Roland

III. Audience: Colin and Brian Carullo, Emma Chase, Tatianna Arruda, Heather Chase, Christine Chase, Girl Scout leaders.

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Mike Blouin to approve the 6/21/2021 Minutes as written. Seconded by Brad Dolben. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Special Presentations

The girl scouts from Troop 65177 in Somers gave an update on the butterfly garden and the permanent signs which will replace the temporary ones erected when the flowers were planted. Todd said the town will order the permanent signs and install them. It was suggested that photos of the finished project be posted on the Recreation Department website to increase public awareness of the project. The participating scouts also reported that they led an event to show the local Girl Scout Daisies the butterfly garden and explain its importance. The Daisies also placed small rocks which they had painted in the garden. Those visiting the garden can take a rock home or add additional rocks of their own.

Colin Carullo from Troop 179 in East Longmeadow gave a presentation of his proposed Boy Scout Eagle Project to install benches at two locations at Camp Aya Po. Two benches would be placed at the beach area back from the shore and one at the second beach where the old boat house stood. The benches would be purchased metal benches secured on concrete bases. Todd said no permits would be needed for the installation and that Somers DEP could help place the benches.

Motion by Joan Sears to recommend approval of the project. Seconded by Dick Hutton. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the BOS for final approval.

VII. Old Business

Brochures

The Trails Brochures are flying off the shelves at Hometown Kitchen Restaurant and at Dunkin. They are also disappearing at Cassandra's. Dick Hutton estimates he has between 100 and 200 left.

Bald Mountain

Mike Blouin reported that the Bald Mountain loop trail starting at County Road is completed including new trail signs at intersections. The new sign at the parking area has also been installed. The lack of marked trails north of the loop trail was discussed. Mike suggested additional signage to help those using the area. It was decided to hold off for now until the trails on NCLT property are cleared and blazed. This should happen late this year or next spring.

Somersville Mill Trail

A new trail bridge has been built across a stream toward the western end of the Somersville Mill Trail. On June 26th Brad Dolben, Michael Maynard, Mike Blouin, Eileen Blouin and Richard Bailey installed the bridge in very hot weather. Dom Wilson and Brad suggested that additional bridges be planned where the trail crosses other small streams.

VIII. New Business

Richard Bailey was contacted by Jack Logan; a Boy Scout from the Somers troop; about a possible Eagle Project at Camp Aya Po. Richard had suggested benches along the Lakeside Trail. With Colin also proposing to build benches at the beach areas, the need for additional benches was discussed. It was decided that benches along the trail would still be a benefit. Another suggestion was to have Jack build benches to be placed in front of the old fireplace to create a gathering spot. When the final plan for use of this area is decided at a later date, any benches placed here might need to be moved. Richard will relay the information discussed to Jack.

Dick Hutton reported that committee member Wes Smith passed away on September 18th. He will be greatly missed.

IX. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday October 18st 2021 at 7:00 PM.

X. Adjournment

8:40 pm. Motion to adjourn by Dick Hutton, seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary