

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday Apr. 18th, 2022, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Auditorium

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:01 PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Patrice Carson, Joan Sears, Mike Blouin, Eileen Blouin, Brad Dolben, Debra Romano, Dominic Wilson and Todd Roland

III. Audience: None

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Joan Sears to approve the 11/15/2021 minutes as written. Seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: SOSTC has received an inquiry from an Enfield resident concerning stocking fish at Hurds Lake. Ann has followed up with the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources. She was told that the lake was stocked in the past when it was owned by the YWCA. The lake will be assessed later this spring to determine if it is suitable for stocking.

VI. Old Business

Butterfly Meadow

The permanent information signs designed by the Somers Girl Scouts for the meadow have been installed. A group to be responsible for on-going maintenance needs to be identified. Hopefully the Somers Girl Scouts will be willing to do this. It was suggested at the last meeting that milkweed plants be added to the area. Dick Hutton needs to be contacted to see if he can provide plants.

Camp Aya Po

Todd Roland reported that Somers DPW will not be installing a Porta-Potty at Aya Po this year due to continuing problems with vandalism. Pat Boudreau who has planted and maintained wildflowers for several years will be moving out of the area and will no longer be involved. It was suggested that a public event to do a spring cleanup at Aya Po be added to Somers Earth Day activities.

The Somers BOS approved boy scout Jack Logan's eagle project to install two benches on the Lakeside Trail. Richard will contact Jack for an estimate for when the benches will be installed. Todd Roland reported that the Somers BOS decided that funding is not currently available for construction of a new building at Camp Aya Po. Maureen has started using Camp Aya Po for events for children. A day camp is not possible unless there is an enclosed building with bathrooms on the property. Ann has suggested building a second pavilion in front of the old chimney for presentations and other events. Somers DPW has received a notice from DEEP that the Hurds Lake dam needs to be inspected and maintenance performed.

Trail Maintenance

Eileen Blouin walked the Somersville Mill Trail recently and reported that the Japanese knotweed has not yet started growing but the multiflora rose needs trimming toward the west end of the trail. A work party should be scheduled to address this problem.

VII. New Business

Todd Roland reported that Somers BOS is having an engineering study done to look at building a pedestrian bridge across the Scantic River at the site of the former vehicle bridge at the Somersville Mill site.

The following slate of officers for 2022 were nominated:

Chairman – Ann Moses

Vice Chairman – Debra Romano

Secretary – Richard Bailey

All candidates accepted their nominations.

Motion by Patrice Carson to accept the slate of officers as presented. Seconded by Mike Blouin. Motion passed.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 16th 2022 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

8:00 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Eileen Blouin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary