

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday Sept 18th, 2023, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Auditorium

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Eileen Blouin, Mike Blouin, Debra Romano, Dominic Wilson, Patrice Carson, Chuck Carson, Joan Sears, Maureen Parsell and Todd Rolland.

III. Audience: John Kelleher

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 6/26/2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: Email from Dick Hutton reporting that the Somersville Mill Trail needs clearing.

VI. Old Business

The Girl Scout Pollinator Garden needs some love. Although the flowers are blooming or have bloomed, invasive plants are starting to take over the area. Weeding is needed.

Camp Aya Po improvements update. The chain has been installed across the entrance to the parking area. The chain will be locked at dusk and opened after sunrise each day. Currently Patrice and Chuck Carson are handling this but have requested that others help. If the gate is closed, visitors are still able to park along Camp Road. The street light on the road is working but the light installed in the parking area is not working. The office trailer is in place and the required equipment is being installed. The dump station to be used by the camper hosts will be constructed next spring. The garbage cans and new toilets are working so far with no vandalism reported. People using the area have requested that picnic tables be added. Todd said that picnic tables are hard to maintain and may lead to people bringing in grills, which are not allowed. The beaver is still active but has not caused any problems with the trail or lake outlet so far. Unleashed dogs remain an on-going problem. Ann Moses witnessed three unleashed dogs rushing a woman with a leashed dog and a small child. Visits to the area by the Somers Dog Warden have been discussed to try to decrease this problem

VII. New Business

Mike and Eileen Blouin announced that they will be moving out of Somers shortly and therefore are resigning from the committee. Mike said that they would still like to be involved in the committee's work to build and maintain trails. Since Eileen is committee vice-chairman, that position is now open.

A proposed meeting schedule for 2024 was distributed and discussed. A motion was made by Barbara Anderson to accept the schedule as written and seconded by Joan Sears. Motion passed.

Todd Rolland suggested that a presentation be made to the BOS during a scheduled meeting sometime in the fall highlighting our OSTC accomplishments. Todd would handle the presentation and asked that committee members submit suggestions for input as well as appropriate photos for discussion at the October OSTC meeting.

Patrice Carson suggested that due to a lot of night-time partying and loud noise at Camp Aya Po, Somers DPW put up a chain across the entrance to the parking area that can be locked at night until a gate is installed later this year.

The butterfly meadow is in good shape and there isn't much trash seen at Aya Po following the girl scout's clean-up day last month. The trash receptacles are being used and emptied.

There is a lot of beaver activity on Hurds Lake with two lodges between the shore and the Lakeside Trail. They have been cutting many small trees and bushes along the shoreline.

Brad Dolben led a hike on the Somersville Mill Trail and reported that the trail is in fairly good shape but will need work this spring to knock back the Japanese knotweed and other vegetation.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday October 16th 2023 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

7:53 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Barbara Anderson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary