

04/2023

Mission Statement: The Somers Open Space and Trail Committee is committed to enriching the lives of the residents of Somers through the creation and maintenance of public walking and multi-use trails on town-owned open spaces. The SOSTC advocates passive recreational use of these properties by conducting public events connecting residents of all ages to the natural world around them.

Goals: Identify and chart the existing trails in the town of Somers and develop a strategic plan for the development and maintenance of new and existing trails. Develop a strategy for keeping residents informed and engaged in using our town's extensive trail system.

Section 2 – Camp Aya Po Area					
Task	Due Date	Owner	Task Description	Status	Comments
2.4		All	Maintain Amphitheater Area by the lake.	OPEN	Continue to make repairs and maintain the amphitheater area.
2.8		All	Former Avery Hall Fireplace	HOLD	Look for funding to create a deck or structure around the former Avery Hall fireplace.
2.9		All	Butterfly Meadow	OPEN	Maintain the butterfly meadow.

Section 5- Somersville Mill Trail					
Task#	Due Date	Owner	Task Description	Status	Comments
5.3		ALL	Ongoing trail maintenance.	OPEN	
5.5		All	Remove invasive weeds	OPEN	Remove Japanese knotweed and other invasive' s

Task#	Due Date	Owner	Task Description	Status	Comments
1.8		Maureen Parsell & Dom	QR Codes for Trails	Closed	Signs with QR codes are installed
4.1		OSTC	Improve trail so that it is not so steep descending the summit	Closed	
5.4		All	Foot bridge construction to cross wet area	Closed	Construct bridge at wet area location

2015 CLOSED TASKS					
Task#	Due Date	Owner	Task Description	Status	Comments
1.1	6/15/15	Patrice Carson	Identify the boundaries and width of the North and South Forest Trail easements as well as any Open Space land that abuts Camp AyaPo on the Northern boundary.	CLOSED	(25ft/50ft?) Todd/Patrice obtained maps to be used for Grant Application
1.1	Summer 2017	Chris and Patrice	Create Somers Trail Guide identifying all existing trails and their identified features and uses.	CLOSE	Richard provided several maps to Chris of town open space properties for posting on new REC website. Chris to provide demo of the REC website trails network section he is working on. – Suggestion was made to add a “QR reader” to maps on REC website. 4/17- Patrice reviewing drafts provided by Chris 6/16 Richard provided additional descriptions of NCLT ETC to Chris for review & formatting. Website will show photo of main trailhead as well as brief description of permitted use, trail lengths and difficulty as well as links to maps, directions and detailed descriptions. 9/18 update/Chris has contents for the site nearly complete, requested confirmation on a few maps/descriptions before final release

1.6	4/20/15	Kathy Devlin	Clarification on committee's role in advising on future planning of Open Space, subdivision, trail usage etc.	CLOSED	2/22-Kathy spoke to the BOS and Planning Commission members and clarified that the OSTC will not play an ongoing role in this area. 4/8- Ann wrote to the BOS and asked them to reconsider expanding the scope of our committee to include advising. 4/25- Lisa Pellegrini advised that the BOS reviewed again and confirmed that they wish to stay the course with the existing charge of the committee and prefers not to expand the SOSTC scope to include this function.
1.7	6/7/15	ALL	Consider hosting a combined OSTC/NCLT hike on National Trails weekend	CLOSED	2/19 -NCLT is hosting a hike(Albie Grant leader) on June 7 and OSTC will "join" this hike and assist in clearing the N/S Forest View trail in preparation for the hike. We would like Chris to come up with a plan to encourage additional participation from Somers residents as historically there has been little participation. 6/15-Hike completed very successful, good participation in this year's event. (27?)
2.1	5/15/15	Todd Rolland	Collect hold harmless waivers from all committee members and volunteers prior to any work parties.	CLOSED	Todd sent e-mail with the waiver to committee members on 12/23/14. Ann to bring printed copies for committee members to Jan meeting.
2.3	TBD	Todd Rolland	Move forward clean up and eventual removal existing building structures on land designated as Open Space	CLOSED	Todd is hoping to remove ALL buildings identified for removal as one project once AyaPo recreation committee establishes which buildings on the Recreational Property will remain. - June Update/all required removal is complete.
2.5	2/17/15	Dominic	Identify contact from Mtn. Biking Community to discuss development of Mtn. Biking trail and solicit participation on the OSTC.	CLOSED	No candidate was identified/closed
2.6	1/4/15	Todd	Present proposed lakeside trail and proposed bridge over stream to Dave Askew to ensure no issues with wetlands	CLOSED	Richard provided draft trail map identifying wetland areas to Dave Askew, which was reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 1/7 and approved. Todd R'cd approval by mail on 1/15 and will keep on file.
2.7	5/15/15	ALL	Signage/Trail use for Ayapo?	CLOSED	Richard sent a proposed sign to Todd for consideration.

					Aug Update: Signs have been placed
3.4	May 17, 2015	Volunteers from RRRC	Remove overgrowth of briars that block trail in summer (cut and roundup roots to prevent re-growth)	CLOSED	RRRC hosted a work party on May 17 to begin clearing trail of Briars and water crossings/17 people participated.
2016 CLOSED TASKS					
1.0	Summer 2016	Richard Bailey/Todd	Create OSAT existing and proposed trail Maps of AyaPo, Bald Mountain and Soapstone Mountain Regions	Closed	Mapping competed. Revised maps with corrected colors/language and trail lengths were sent to Todd by Richard.
1.3	June 4, 2016	All	Co Host National Trails Weekend Hike with NCLT	CLOSED	Hike was co-hosted with Albie Grant, Richard Bailey and Ann Moses. 14 people participated in the hike.
2.0	04/18/16	Richard Bailey/ Todd Rolland	Draft letter to BOS requesting that we hire a Conservation Specialist to create a recommended project plan for the AyaPo property	CLOSED	Estimate cost to be \$2500- \$5,000. Potentially BOS could obtain a grant to fund the project Letter was sent to BOS on 4/8 requesting funds 6/15 – Request was approved by BOS on 5/28. Todd Rolland to request proposals from the suggested list of conservation specialists. 9/01/15- RFP responses due 9/30 1/16 – Approval’s received, contract has been awarded to ConnWood Foresters (David Beers) They will start in March 2016. 4/2016 – Plan is complete, accepted by BOS (\$/28/16) & put on town website
2.1	Fall 2016	OSTC	Clear and flag existing Lower Trail, Perkins Mtn. trail and Old Shenipsit trail in preparation for official “paint marking” in the spring	CLOSED	Committee agreed to use paint as trail markers and identify each trail by different color paint. Lakeside trail to be identified with blue paint. – Patrice, Ann, Barbara, Eric and Dick hiked the proposed Lakeside and Shenipsit Connector Trails with Richard on 01/03/15 and approved moving forward with development (upon approval from DA) Sept –Richard Flagged and Ann and RRRC volunteers started clearing OST Connector trail. Oct 4 -Further clearing and widening was completed Richard let work party on May 30 to mark lower trail. OSTC and Perkins Mtn. Trail are ready to mark

					5/9 these trails are completed and have been marked
2.4	7/1/16	All	CT recreational trails grant Application for bridges on lakeside trail	CLOSED	Apply for Connecticut Recreational Trails program grant to build bridges over the wet space on the proposed lakeside trail - assign team to complete application. June Todd and Richard discussed and determined the cost to develop the bridges would be less than \$1000. Committee discussed and it was confirmed that the Somers Rotary Club would sponsor the bridges. Wes and Richard will purchase materials and Rotary will fund directly.
2.5	TBD	ALL	Adopt a Trail	CLOSED	Aug 2015-Dick confirmed that the Rotary is interested in adopting a trail at Ayapo. Committee Suggested they adopt the new Lake Trail as it is anticipated to be highly utilized with hikers and picnicking when completed.
2.7	Fall 2016	ALL	Replace Current Property Boundary Markers	CLOSED	Todd provided sample boundary marker, it was suggested that we add language about prohibited use. Todd added and provided updated sample. Work party held Oct 22 and boundary markers were replaced.
3.4	May 21 2016	Volunteers from RRRC and others	Remove overgrowth of briars that block trail in summer (cut and roundup roots to prevent re- growth)	CLOSED	RRRC to host annual work party on May 21 to begin clearing trail of Briars and water crossings Work Party completed N/S forest view trail was cleared in preparation for the National Trails Weekend Hike on June 4

2018 CLOSED TASKS					
1.3	June 3, 2017	All	National Trails Weekend Hike with NCLT	CLOSED	Co-host with Albie Grant & Ginny Patson. NCLT hike was successful!
2.2	Spring 2017	OSTC	Further development of Lakeside Trail/Ayapo area	CLOSED	May 9 Andy Phillips, Scout Master attended meeting and confirmed scouts would be interested in participating. It was suggested that they consider picnic tables/benches or a trail kiosk instead of bridges.

					<p>Sept – decision was made that Wyatt Garber would create an information Kiosk as part of his Eagle Scout Project March – initial quote from KF for lumber too high. New quote from Kibbe Saw Mill much more reasonable (Under \$500) Wyatt is submitting paperwork for approval through scouts. Rotary club has money available to donate to Scouts to help fund Kiosk when ready.</p> <p>Aug 21 Wyatt Garber gave update that funding/project has been approved by scouts and he is ready to move forward. He also was able to secure a piece of plexi glass as a donation saving close to \$200 on his project costs.</p>
1.5	Oct 2017	ALL	Recommendations for 2018 OSTC members to BOS	CLOSED	Several non-participating members, should we consider replacing their appointments with other members?
2.3	Summer 2017	ALL	Clean out trash from Lake Hurd	CLOSED	<p>Clean up trash/debris from the shoreline including broken docks/lifejacket container etc.</p> <p>May 9 Todd confirmed divers and town cleaned out much of the debris from the lake.</p> <p>July committee confirmed no additional work was needed, and we would re-assess if further cleaning is needed in the fall after summer usage slows down.</p> <p>Richard and private citizens pulled out much of the debris and discarded it in June.</p>
2.5	Fall 2017	ALL	Nature Area East side of Camp Rd	CLOSED	<p>Begin discussions of how area East of Camp Rd will be used. Development of a suggested wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Feb – Richard shared link to the DEEP Belding Wildlife Mgmt. are in Vernon as example of how they are utilizing that area. Potential to contact Jane Seymour/Naturalist – PROJECT LEAD? Dick Hutton has a friend that is a landscape architect that may be interested in advising on this project. Ken Albert. Hopefully he can attend an upcoming meeting.</p>
2.6	May 20 2017	Richard Bailey	Lead hike Exploring Camp Ayapo	CLOSED	Chris to post information on REC site about several town hikes. Exploring Camp Ayapo Hike was held. App 4 participated. Ayapo work party was also held on June 11. 8 participated

3.1	April 2017	Ann/Patrice/Richard	Improve footing/crossing of boggy area and re-build deteriorated bridges	CLOSED	Application submitted for CT Recreational Trails Program Grant—See below 3.6
3.2	TBD	Todd	Improve entrance to South Forest Trail off Mountain View Road	CLOSED	Trailhead has been improved
3.3	TBD	Todd	Improve the small parking area at beginning of North Forest Trail on Mt View Rd to allow access for trail maintenance.	CLOSED	Parking area has been improved
3.4	Spring 2017	Ann/Patrice/Richard	Complete application for Connecticut Recreational Trails Program Grant	CLOSED	<p>Submitted grant request to improve the South Forest View Trail. Expected response fall 2015 Feb 2016- request made the short list. Request for add'l info completed by Todd and Patrice.</p> <p>Final decision was received March 2016 that our grant request was accepted.</p> <p>July – Paperwork from the State was received, BOS completed the contract and will submit. Work cannot begin until we receive the contract back from the state.</p> <p>CONTRACT RECEIVED, WORK TO START SPRING 2017</p> <p>Total grant =\$5476 Committee has from 9/23/16-9/23/18 to complete work</p> <p><b>Total grant =\$5476 Committee has from 9/23/16-9/23/18 to complete work</b></p> <p><b>Town of Somers delivered the lumber to the jobsites and has completed the site work. Three work parties have been held to date to work on the Southernmost Bridge. This bridge is complete with the exception of the ramp on the west side. Committee needs to decide on final design of the northern bridge/boardwalk and confirm dates for work parties.</b></p>
3.5	May 21	Ann/RRRC	Host work party to clear NS forest view trail for National trails weekend	CLOSED	Scheduled to meet at Moses house 9 am. 18 members participated and cleared both north and south forest view. South bridge is completely deteriorated and caution taped off. Brook Crossing was made .

4.0	TBD	OSTC	Mark/Clear existing Bald Mtn. Loop for easier access from County Road	CLOSED	Sensitive area with abutting neighbors. All work must be completed by SOSTC volunteers not DPW.
3.6	Aug 12 /13 and 19 and 20	Volunteers	Begin bridge build	CLOSED	Todd will begin his work demoing old bridges first week of august and building bridge abutments. See 3.4

2.1		OSTC	Develop/Promote New Lakeside trail	CLOSED	<p>Sept-Sean completed the “Eagle Scout” portion of the Lakeside trail- remainder of trail needs to be developed. Committee suggested Town place large rocks at beginning and end of trail to block people from parking in front of trailhead – <u>complete</u></p> <p>June 2, Ann, Barbara and Richard walked the proposed lakeside trail and confirmed layout. June 3 Richard met with Todd to confirm and volunteer work was begun. 10/15/16 Richard and Dom lead an OSTC Hike profiling the new OSTC Ayapo trails. Chris used REC website to promote the hike and we got great participation (22 people joined)</p> <p>Nov 12/13 -Trail completed, bridges over wet areas completed. <b>Somers Rotary Club funded the cost of the bridges and would like a small plaque giving recognition to be placed on bridge. – Status of plaque/Ann to attend next rotary club meeting to present a thank you?</b></p>
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4.2	2017	OSTC	Re-route trail off private property	CLOSED	Town was contacted by Shenipsit Supervisor requesting that we re-route the existing trail off of private property,
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					and it was confirmed that we would. Need work party. Richard rerouted trail off private property in June.
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5.0	Oct 11 2016	Ann Moses	Somersville Mill Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee	CLOSED	Ann attended meetings in 2015 and Oct 2016 as future consideration of the mill site includes town owned open space along the river front. Shared information about the OSTC and how we could assist in developing and maintaining a future trail system on this site.
5.1	Spring 2017	OSTC	Proposed Trail usage/Maps	CLOSED	Richard presented OSTC with potential trail opportunities for Somersville Mill site once clean-up is completed
5.2	Spring 2017	OSTC	Continue to attend meetings in support open space in Mill area	CLOSED	Public information session meeting to discuss the demo in June. Demo expected to begin in July. There will be some intermittent road closures while demo is conducted.

Section 6- Volunteer Man Hours Logged				
Date	Volunteer Man Hours	Project	Project Status	Participants
1/3/15	15	Lake Trail Development at Ayapo	complete	6 OSTC members
5/30/15	4	Mark Trails at Ayapo	complete	2 OSTC members
5/17/15	59.5	Clear S. Forest View Trail	Complete	17 members Reddington Rock Riding Club (RRRC)
May 2015	8	Repaired bridges on S. Forest View	Complete	4 OSTC and NCLT members
10/22/15	8	Blazed and Marked trails at Ayapo	complete	Richard and Pat (OSTC)
10/4/15	42	OST connector	complete	Roundtuit Ranch, OSTC, RRRC

2015	?	Lake Trail Section/Eagle Scout Project	Completed	Boy Scouts/Troop 387 (Sean Burgmyer)
3/19/16	13	Clear Perkins Mtn. trail	completed	5 OSTC volunteer
3/24/16	8	Clear Perkins Mnt trail	Completed	Richard OSTC
3/30/16	4	Blaze Perkins Mnt trail	Completed	Richard and Pat OSTC
5/21/16	13	Clear N/S Forest View Trail	Completed	8 volunteers from RRRC
6/20/16	2	Mark Lakeside Trail	Completed	Richard OSTC
June 2016	52	Clear Lakeside Trail	Completed	OSTC, Volunteers from community
June 10-17, 2016	15	Clear Lakeside Trail	Completed	Richard OSTC
2016	18	Weed-whack /plant flowers at Ayapo	Completed	Pat OSTC
Oct 22, 2016	24.5	Replace Boundary Markers at AYAPO	completed	5 OSTC, 4 Boy Scouts, 3 volunteers from community
Nov 12 &13 2016	68	Build new foot bridges over Lakeside trail at Camp Ayapo	completed	OSTC, Rotary Club, NCLT and volunteers from community -11 total