



City of Shelton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2022

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom and recorded onto the Conservation Commission's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Pn_XrisAj8

Present: Bill Dyer, Mark Vollaro, Val Gosset, Terry Gallagher, Mike Flament

Absent: Ellen Cramp, Bob Wood

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager; Tom Harbinson, Conservation Commission Chair

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:36 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** **Val Gosset made a motion to approve the February 2, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Terry Gallagher. All were in favor.**

Recent Trail Activities:

- A work party was held to clear brush along the Rec Path (42.0 hrs)
- Val Gosset handled communications (2 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza cleared a blowdown on the Paugussett Trail at Shelton Lakes (3 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro cleared a blowdown on Turkey Trot Trail (1.5 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza cleared logs off of Birchbank Trail and logs obstructing stream flow (6.0 hrs)
- Terry Gallagher wrote blog posts and did some barn work (3.0 hrs)
- Staff continued clearing and blazing the new trails at French's Hill
- **TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 57.5 hrs (including 3 hrs Paugussett So.)**

Barn Status: Interior work is on hold due to cold weather. Bill Dyer touched base with City staff about polyurethaning the interior as the temperatures increase. Terry Gallagher bought a large box of used specialty hooks for hanging tools and gear from Knights (\$100). The hillside above the barn needs to be stabilized and planted in Spring. Allison Menendez has agreed to come up with a plan and procure plants, and is asking for a budget. Committee members recommended \$350, to be referred to the Conservation Commission for a vote (to be taken from Conservation's Land Improvement line item).

Eversource Meeting: Teresa Gallagher contacted Eversource recently to set up a meeting with the Trails Committee to discuss the proposed tower upgrades at Shelton Lakes and French's Hill. Bill Dyer said the meeting should be this month. Terry

Gallagher thought that the sooner they met, the better, and everything should be in writing so when the work is done, we have a written agreement about how it will be done and what restoration will look like. Teresa Gallagher noted that the Conservation Commission has directed her to make a photo inventory of existing conditions along the lines where there are trails, which she will do after the snow melts. Mark Vollaro said Trails needs to be involved from the start and stay involved, otherwise who knows how things will turn out. Committee members wanted materials native to the area (not red sandstone), proper native plants, and the utility road should not be upgraded to a “highway.” Tom Harbinson asked that the Engineering Department and Board of Aldermen understand what the Conservation Commission is asking for. Teresa Gallagher will set up a meeting for a Wednesday in March.

Events:

National Trails Day is in June. Public hikes were not held the last few years due to the pandemic. Committee members discussed a potential public hike, possibly the one that had been scheduled for 2020. No decision was made. Bill Dyer also noted the ten year anniversary of the opening of the Shelton Lakes Recreation Path was coming up in September.

Scout Projects: The Rec Path kiosk project near the Dog Park has been withdrawn.

Potential Work Parties:

- March 12 French’s Hill
- March 26 French’s Hill?

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.

Minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered a draft until approved by the Trails Committee.