



City of Shelton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2021
Meeting was held at City Hall Room 104.

Present: Bill Dyer, Mark Vollaro, Val Gosset, Terry Gallagher, Bob Wood, Ellen Cramp, Mike Flament (arrived 5:05 pm)

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:00 pm.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Terry Gallagher made a motion to approve the November 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bob Wood. All were in favor.
(Mike Flament arrived at 5:05 pm)

Recent Trail Activities:

- A work party was held to fill in Rec Path washouts near Wesley Drive and to cut back brush (35 hrs)
- A work party was held at the junction of the Rec Path/Turkey Trot/Paugussett Trail to address drainage problems. (38 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro cleared blowdowns on multiple trails (8 hrs total including 1.5 hrs Paugussett)
- Mark Vollaro, Bill Dyer, Luis Isaza, and Bob Wood cleared blowdowns from the Rec Path (9 hrs)
- Val Gosset handled communications (2.5 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro leveled out dirt in the garden area behind the new barn (3.0 hrs)
- Ellen Cramp monitored and cleaned up Oak Valley Trail (1.25 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Bob Wood filled washouts on the Rec Path at the Pine Lake bridge (5.5 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza blew leaves, cleaned culverts, and mowed along the Rec Path (8 hrs)
- Terry Gallagher procured boards cut from an ash log for a new workbench at the Trails Barn along with additional boards for the workbench, and cleaned off old tools that were donated (8 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro put down rosin paper at barn (6.5 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza removed and disposed a tire and trash from Oak Valley Trail (4 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza blew leaves off of Turkey Trot Trail (5.0 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Joe Edelstein blew leaves and cleaned culverts on the Rec Path and repaired washout (9.0 hrs)

- Bob Wood purchased a pvc pipe for Rec Path chain and raked leaves and debris from the area (2 hrs)
- Staff cleared a new trail on the Trombetta open space, removed leaves from Tahmore Trail, the Poet Path, the Paugussett Trail north of Thoreau Drive, and Boehm Pond trails.
- **TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 144.75** (1.5 hrs on the Paugussett)

Meeting with Eversource: Bill Dyer and Teresa Gallagher met with eight representatives of Eversource to learn about an upgrade to the transmission lines that run from Pootatuck Place (near Exit 12) to the Monroe border. The existing towers will be replaced with monopoles. In some cases, additional poles will be installed. This will impact the Shelton Lakes Greenway trail system, including the Paugussett Trail, Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, Nells Rock Trail, Oak Valley Trail, and Turkey Trot Trail.

The impact will be in two parts: Temporary trail closures (and potential safety issues) and restoration after the project is completed. Eversource is proposing to build substantial gravel service roads in many places. Areas around wetlands will not have gravel roads installed, but will be serviced by temporary plank roads. Eversource did agree to surface the gravel roads with process material that matches the Rec Path topcoat after Bill Dyer and Teresa Gallagher described another road Eversource previously upgraded that was so difficult to walk on, the Paugussett Trail had to be rerouted off of it. Several members voiced concerns about the gravel service roads, preferring they be removed after the work is completed. Eversource does not have final plans yet, but will email a copy to Teresa Gallagher when they do. The plans need to go through an approval process with the Siting Council.

Barn Status: The electric cables were scheduled to be pulled through the conduit on Dec. 2, 2021.

Meeting Dates for 2022: Terry Gallagher made a motion to hold regular meetings in 2022 on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Trails Barn. Specific dates are: Jan. 5, Feb 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7. Seconded by Val Gosset. All were in favor. Bill Dyer noted that until there is heat in the barn, the Committee will need to make other arrangements to meet in City Hall. Teresa Gallagher advised the committee that these will be ‘Special Meetings.’

Potential Work Parties:

- Dec. 11, 9:00 am. Trails Committee members scheduled a walk of the Old Kings Highway property located between Mill Street and Buddington Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm

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