



## City of Shelton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2022

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom and recorded onto the Conservation Commission's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiUf9LeaYXA>

**Present:** Bill Dyer, Val Gosset, Terry Gallagher, Mike Flament, Bob Wood, Ellen Cramp

**Absent:** Mark Vollaro

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

**The meeting was called to order by Bill Dyer at 5:30 pm.**

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



French's Hill Work Party

### Recent Trail Activities:

- A work party was held at the new French's Hill Trail. 24 people attended (74.5 hrs)
- Val Gosset handled communications (2 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza cut logs at French's Hill, along the Rec Path, and at Gristmill Trail (19 hrs)
- Mark Vollaro and Luis Isaza cut invasive vines from the Rec Path and worked on the barn (7 hrs)

- Mark Vollaro transplanted daylilies at the barn to prevent erosion (2 hrs)
- Bill Dyer and Mark Vollaro met with city staff re drainage improvements needed at the barn (2 hrs)
- Staff worked on the French's Hill Trail and addressed dumping issues along the Paugussett Trail at Indian Well, including a potential reroute there.
- **TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 106.5 Hrs**

**Barn Status:** Bill Dyer said that City crews had added drainage features at the barn. Terry Gallagher said he thought it looked nice. Bill Dyer continued that it is supposed to be warmer next week, so he is going to push for getting the interior polyurethaned.

**Eversource Meeting:** Bill Dyer summarized the meeting held earlier in the day with six representatives of Eversource to discuss their plans to upgrade the towers through Shelton Lakes and French's Hill. Teresa Gallagher said it wasn't clear exactly what the upgraded roads and new tower pads were going to look like. The road up to the new monopoles south of Buddington was fairly unobtrusive, while the heavy rock road Eversource installed north of Constitution Blvd was such an eyesore and so difficult to walk on that the trail had to be rerouted off of it. So she requested a recent example to view and was told the work done last year at Black Rock State Park was representative. She coincidentally hiked that work zone in 2021 during construction and plans on visiting the site now that work is complete and taking pictures.

An Eversource representative stated that they had already received permission from the Mayor's office to use "out of right of way" open space areas for utility access. This needs to be verified.

Terry Gallagher discussed the towers at Great Ledge, a trail landmark on deeds from the 1700s. Plans show extensive grading at the rock face, with a new monopole located half way up the cliff. Trails Committee members thought it better to intrude more into the wetlands and save the ledge landmark.

Terry Gallagher noted that anyone can send comments to the Connecticut Siting Council.

**Events:**

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 4. Committee members decided to offer a Trails Day hike at Indian Well/Tahmore Preserve at 9:00 am. The route will be the same that was scheduled for 2020 but which had been canceled due to the pandemic.

**Potential Work Parties:**

April 9, 9:00 am, French's Hill

April 23, 9:00 am, either Lane Street or French's Hill if that is rained out on April 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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