

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Open Space and Trails Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 20, 2016, 7:00PM**  
**Town Hall Lower Conference Room**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ann Moses at 7:01PM

**II. Members Present:**

Ann Moses, Barbara Anderson, Richard Bailey, Patrice Carson, Dick Hutton, Pat Boudreau, Todd Rolland and John Curran.

**III. Audience:**

Tyler J. Anderson, Luke Conley, Andrew Koelher, Ben Bugden and Monty Moses

**IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Patrice Carson to approve the 5/23/16 Minutes as written. Seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion carried.

**V. OSTC Project Plan Review:**

Task 1.0, Todd Rolland will have the updated Aya-Po trails map posted at Camp Aya-Po in July.

Task 1.1, Ann Moses and Chris Boucher have been discussing the possibilities for creation of a Somers Trail Guide to be posted on the Somers Recreation website. An existing guide for trails in Vernon could be used as a possible template. Richard Bailey will continue to create maps of Somers trails.

Task 1.2, Ann Moses suggested creating a public calendar of work parties for Camp Aya-Po and other town owned open space. The calendar could be placed on the town recreation website to better engage the public in maintaining town owned properties. As volunteer coordinator, Richard Bailey will create a work party schedule for 2016.

Task 1.3, On June 4<sup>th</sup> Albie Grant led a Trails Weekend hike starting at Northern Connecticut Land Trust's Whitaker Woods and traversing NCLT, town and state owned open space to Soapstone Mountain. Fourteen people attended the event which was co-hosted by the Open Space and Trails Committee.

Task 2.2. People are parking where the completed portion of the Lakeside Trail comes out onto Camp Road near the dam. It was suggested that Somers Public works place large rocks along the road edge to prevent this in the future. Tyler J. Anderson, Luke Conley, Andrew Koelher and Ben Bugden have been working with Richard Bailey clearing the Lakeside Trail along the east shore of Hurds Lake. Approximately half of the trail has been cleared to date with a total of 63 volunteer hours spent on the project. The trail is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Task 2.4, Dick Hutton will talk to the Somers Rotary Club about funding the footbridges to be built as part of the Lakeside Trail. Richard Bailey will supply proposed bridge design information, a materials list and approximate cost to both Dick and Todd Rolland.

Task 2.6, Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> was confirmed as the date for a work party for committee members to continue cleaning debris from Hurds Lake..

Task 2.7, Todd Rolland will look into designing and purchasing metallic boundary markers for Camp Aya-Po to replace the existing YWCA markers.

Task 3.6. Connecticut DEEP says the grant for improvements to the South Forest View Trail is on hold due to the state's financial situation.

**VI. Correspondence**

None

**VII. New Business**

Todd Rolland reported that all the remaining Camp Aya-Po buildings have been demolished following an inspection by the Somers building inspector and the town engineer which found them to be structurally unsafe. Another consideration was that Avery Hall would have needed new bathrooms and

handicap parking adjacent to the building to meet ADA requirements. The only exception is the gazebo at the edge of the field which will remain. The DEEP confirmed that the structure is grandfathered into the conservation easement. Committee members suggested that the existing fireplace and amphitheater not be demolished as planned until further review.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Monday July 18, 2016 @7:00 pm.

**IX. Adjournment**

8:15 pm. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Dick Hutton. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey

Secretary