

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday April 20th, 2026, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Moses at 6:35 PM

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Joan Sears, Dominic Wilson, Patrice Carson, Chuck Carson, Barbara Anderson and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: Audra Dreyer, Emily Dreyer, Alma Dreyer, Anneke Dreyer

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Patrice Carson Wilson to approve the 11/17/2025 minutes as amended. Seconded by Joan Sears. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence:

Shawn Curtis of the Somers Economic Development Commission contacted the committee to see if there was interest in doing anything with an 8.2 acre parcel on the south side of Somersville Pond that is part of the state Scantic River Linear Park. The parcel is land locked and only accessible from the water. After some discussion, the committee did not express any interest in using this property.

AleahKaszcki, a Somers girl scout leader, contacted Ann about the possibility of having the girl scouts put up bird houses at Camp Aya Po. Ann and Aleah met at Camp Aya Po and decided that the girl scouts would be putting up two bird houses at the edge of the field between Camp Road and the pond, and another two in the field across the street that is only mowed once every two years.

VI. Old Business:

The butterfly garden that the girl scouts planted a couple of years ago is kaput. There is still one sign that needs to be removed.

Audra checked the recyclables bin that was installed by the girl scouts. The bin is about half full with no significant trash mixed in. The bin was not emptied.

Dom reported that the trails at Camp Aya Po are in good shape. People using the trail are helping with maintenance. The Somersville Mill Trail and the North and South Forest View Trails need work but see very little use. Albie Grant had been leading a NCLT Trails Day hike that used the Forest View Trail but has since limited the hike to NCLT's Whitaker Woods and McCann Family Farm properties. Todd said that if anyone using our trails comes across a downed tree obstructing the trail it would be helpful if they took a photo and documented the location as near as possible so that town employees could remove the tree to re-open the trail.

VII. New Business:

Patrice and Dom are looking for help in opening and closing the locked gate at Camp Aya Po every day. Several options were discussed. Todd said that having a town employee open or close the gate would likely not happen. Patrice had met a Somers fireman at Camp Aya Po who she thinks might live nearby but does not know his name. Todd will try to find out who he is. Increasing parking on Camp Road to allow pull in parking was also discussed as a way to provide parking outside of the gate but no decision was made.

It is time to elect committee officers for this year. The current officers are: Ann Moses - chairman, Patrice Carson - vice-chairman, and Richard Bailey – secretary. All officers agreed to serve another term. Patrice Carson made a motion to accept the current slate of officers for another year. Joan Sears seconded. Motion passed.

It has been reported on a Somers social media site that the pavilion at Camp Aya Po is in disrepair and needs work. It was reported that the pavilion is tilting to one side and may be unsafe to use. Todd said that he was unaware of the problem and would look into it

VIII. Next Meeting: The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 18th 2026 at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment: 7:37 PM. Motion to adjourn by Patrice Carson, seconded by Chuck Carson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary