

TOWN OF SOMERS
Open Space and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday April 17th, 2023, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Auditorium

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Members Present:

Ann Moses, Richard Bailey, Eileen Blouin, Mike Blouin, Debra Romano, Joan Sears (by phone), Brad Dolben, Dominic Wilson, Barbara Anderson, Chuck Carson, Michael Maynard, Maureen Parsell and Todd Rolland

III. Audience: John Kelleher

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Eileen Blouin to approve the 9/19/2022 minutes as written. Seconded by Brad Dolben. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence: See Old Business

VI. Old Business

A DEEP representative contacted Todd Rolland to inform him that the Hurds Lake fish sampling will be performed the night of May 18th. The results of the survey will be used to determine if Hurds Lake will be stocked by DEEP. Ann Moses plans to attend the sampling.

Todd Roland reported on planned improvements to Camp Aya Po this year as recommended by the Camp Aya Po Ad Hoc Committee. A concrete pad will be poured for the installation of two porta-potties. A small office building will be constructed for use by Somers police and the Animal Control Officer as well as for storage. An RV dump station will be constructed for use by a future Camper Host. A gate will be installed at the parking lot entrance which will be closed and locked at night. Security cameras will be installed. Changes will be made to the swimming area including additional signage to bring it into compliance with state regulations.

The Somers girl scouts will be holding a clean up day at the Camp Aya Po wildflower garden on April 23rd. Mulch for the wildflower garden will be provided by the town. Anyone who can donate milkweed plants should contact Joan Sears.

VII. New Business

Dominic reported that ATV's are entering the property from Stafford Road and following trails to the top of Perkins Mountain. Dom also reported on the unofficial trail from the boundary between Camp Aya Po and Worthington Winery up to the Old Shenipsit Trail. The trail is cleared and marked with spray painted purple blazes. It is not clear if the winery was involved. The owners of the winery will be contacted.

Ann has spoken to Marcella Hube, Shenipsit State Forest Supervisor, who is interested in attending a SOSTC meeting to learn more about town open space and trails.

Election of officers:

The current committee officers all agreed to serve another term. Ann Moses – president, Eileen Blouin - vice president and Richard Bailey – secretary. Mike Blouin made a motion to elect this slate of officers. Debra Romano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Shenipsit Striders have donated \$250 to the trails committee to help with expenses such as signage.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next SOSTC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 15th 2023 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

7:58 pm. Motion to adjourn by Debra Romano, seconded by Eileen Blouin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bailey - Secretary