

February 10, 2024

Skagit Trail Builders Advisory Committee Meeting

Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Advisory Committee Chair

22 volunteers in attendance

Planned Work Updates – JT and Art

Two 55 ft steel beams for the new bridge crossing (connecting Hill Creek Trail and the Pump House Trail at the north end) will be delivered next week. The parks dept will leave them at the Elk Trail crossing. Art, JT, and Jerry will work the plan to move the beams to the bridge site and discuss with volunteer crew.

Hill Creek Trail (current project): Volunteer group discussed the scope of clearing blackberries. It was agreed that creating a wide corridor for the new trail was reasonable. We will not clear larger swaths as proposed by the contractor (Art).

First Aid CPR Training – JT

Four members of our leadership team are currently certified. When initially polled, 12 volunteers' expressed interest in receiving training offered by United General. We recently learned that the training would cost \$65 per person.

Volunteer crew voted "no" on the training. It was agreed that 4 people certified was enough to cover 24 volunteers (average group size). We will save our funds for purposes more directly aligned with our mission.

Wind Phone Proposal – Jenny

Avry Richter, VISTA Grief Support Development Coordinator at United General, proposed the installation of a [Wind Phone](#) at NSRA. United would create and maintain the booth. STB would coordinate to select a location, clear it, and build a short trail.

Concern about ADA accessibility: JT said that Beth (from United) suggested 2 phones. One that is ADA accessible and one that is remote/private. Details TBD.

Ideas from volunteer crew:

1. Lower ledge of Big Rock (dismissed as not private enough, voices carry)
2. Mount a phone inside a hollow cedar stump with a chair/bench and sign
3. On Hansen Creek between Big Rock and Meadow (let the burbling water carry your sorrows away)

A few volunteers offered to explore potential sites.

Clarification about t-shirts, sweatshirts, and the after-session meal - JT

STB receives a session fee from Parks & Rec. We use that money to provide t-shirts to every volunteer on their first day, and sweatshirts for our leadership team and those who have worked at least 25 hours (3-4 sessions).

Funds are also used to buy dinner for those who attend our after-session planning meeting. We believe that volunteers who have worked hard all day deserve a solid meal. (It is a benefit that is especially appreciated by our younger volunteers who might not attend the meeting because they don't have the resources to buy a meal).

The per person spending limit is \$20. This covers dinner and a soda or dessert. We usually order baskets of fries for the table. Adults who would like beer will purchase their own.

We have dinner in Sedro Woolly for visibility and to support the local economy. We usually go to the Bullpen (all ages sports pub) but are open to other restaurant ideas.

Head count for dinner tonight: 12.