

**Feb 22, 2025**

**Skagit Trail Builders Advisory Committee Meeting**

Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Advisory Committee Chair

27 Volunteers in attendance

**Updates from the SWIFT Workgroup Meeting – Paul & JT**

Wayfinding proposal shared and is in discussion (Paul)

Need for stewardship guidelines was discussed (JT)

Transition to Port property projects is in discussion (JT)

No decisions were made, but the SWIFT partners agreed to the needs

- No comments

**Bridge Update – Jenny/Bret/Kinsey**

Song Sparrow Bridge appears to be complete, but the contractor has one more work session planned. When we get word from the county, our volunteer crews will extend the connector trail, build the elevated approaches, and restore the area around the bridge and creek.

We will be doing a significant amount of rock work at the site, so we want to make sure we have people who have developed skills to build rock walls. We will also have an abundance of restoration work, which will be gratifying for the team.

The plan is to be done with our work at the bridge site by the end of June 2025. The County's ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Sept 2025.

Thanks to **Kinsey, Craig, Bret, Emily, Joe, Jerry, and Lynn** for their hard work and dedication to the project.

- Comment from Bret Turner: The last work session was the final on bridge construction. STB may be able to start work in March.
- Comment from Jenny: That's great to hear. However, just a reminder that we won't be starting work until we get official word from the county.

**Wind phone - Jenny**

Skagit County Parks and Rec has contracted Art Tuftee (contractor who built the bridge) to build a structure for the Veteran's Trail and one for Hill Creek Trail. Parks Director Brian Adams wants to prioritize the site we identified on Hill Creek Trail to be built first, so it is ready for the bridge ribbon cutting in Sept 2025.

The project is being coordinated by United General District 304 (Beth is planning to join us in March and may have more to share then). Our involvement will be only on Hill Creek Trail, clearing the view to the water and building a short access trail. We'll do this work in alignment with capping that section of Hill Creek Trail. Timing TBD.

- Q from Marcia Fort: Where is the site?
- A: On Hill Creek Trail, a little south of Big Rock. It is a very old living cedar with a hollow at the base. The hollow faces Hansen Creek.

#### **Parks Dept Steering Committee - Jenny**

Jenny is honored to be asked to join Skagit County Parks Dept Art and Interpretive Signage Steering Committee for NSRA. The first meeting is April 3, so she will have more to share with the group then.

- Comment from Robert Slabodnik: Consider signage for storied places and landmarks, for example "Jawbone corner"
- Comment from Zoe Slabodnik: Can we get "dog on leash" signs?

#### **Hiker Rally Day in Olympia on March 18, 2025 - Jenny**

Washington Trails Association is organizing a rally in Olympia on March 18 to advocate for trail funding during the spring legislative session. While our organization is not directly affected by state budget cuts, a large number of trails in our area are, including those managed by WA State Parks, Dept of Natural Resources, Dept of Fish and Wildlife. As you all know, when it comes to funding shortfalls, there are ripple effects.

I plan to attend the session on March 18 and would love some company. You find the sign-up info on our website and on our social channels. Let me know that you've signed up and we'll organize a ride share.

- Q: What day of the week is March 18?
- A: Tuesday

Comment from Kinsey Schilling "Thanks for getting the leather gloves for blackberry work"

**Planning Meeting, 4:30 pm, Bull Pen : Headcount 18**