

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2021
Minutes approved August 13, 2021
Steve Tobin, Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Roy Herold, Charlene Hinton, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin

Guests: Sylvia Willard, Bert Willard, Bob Goldsmith, Chris Li (Mosquito reporter)

Meeting was held via video conference. The meeting was opened by Chair Alan Ankers at 7:35 PM.

Documents Presented:

None

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the June 4 meeting were approved as amended.

Bills:

None.

Greenough - Eagle Scout Project:

Josh Sun's project is scheduled for Saturday July 24. Steve will ask Josh to meet on-site with Trails Committee representatives a week earlier for final planning. Marc will cut angled deck boards for an anticipated bend in the boardwalk at the ramp. Alan questioned whether that will work and will give it some thought. Marc asked that Steve review the needed materials against our inventory. Steve will meet with John Troast of the Historical Society to see if there are historical artifacts that should be salvaged from the collapsed building before it is removed.

Woodward Village:

The trail clearing work for the new over-the-hill trail was rescheduled to July 11. Alan will contact those needing Trekker service projects.

Benches:

Steve and Warren installed the last of the current batch of benches on the Catbriar trail near marker D6 on June 10. Warren put together a materials list for 12 new benches and got a quote from Concord Lumber. A few changes were suggested, including adding 20 2x10x8' boards for future duck boards. Marc will double check Warren's list against our inventory before the lumber order is placed. Marc volunteered to host a construction party on July 17 at 9 am. Marc moved and the committee unanimously approved a motion to allow Warren to spend up to \$1500 for materials for 12 benches and duck boards.

Boardwalk Repair:

With input from the Trails Committee, 10 rotting deck boards were replaced on the Spalding to Banta boardwalk. RecCom bought the materials and work was done by the Carlisle Boy Scouts. 4 extra boards are being stored in the pole barn for future repairs.

Trekker Service Projects:

Many trails need to be cleared of summer growth. Rangeway and Great Meadows were suggested. Steve will propose some work days to those needing service projects.

Greenough Narrow Trail:

No more changes planned for now.

Trails Day:

CCF reported there were less walk reports than last year – perhaps due to poor weather the first weekend. We expect to get more details later.

Town Meeting – Greenough Dam Repair:

CPA funding was approved by Town Meeting without discussion. Sylvia thought the work might happen in the fall. She will find out more at the pre-construction conference. The trail across the dam will be closed during construction; we need to put up signs beforehand.

Old Home Day:

Marc and Steve manned the table at the reconfigured Country Fair. The wider spacing under the solar canopy and longer time period allowed for better discussions with residents. 24 trail books were sold, more than in 2019. Steve deposited \$340 with the Town Treasurer from OHD and prior sales. The Double Sundae Sunday Saunter was held on June 27. It was hot but there was a breeze. There were 17 walkers at peak, many of whom left at Great Brook, and 6 who finished.

Valentine Trail Easement:

The Planning Board voted to approve the Stillmeadow Farm Common Driveway that includes the relocated easement from Acton Street to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Final conditions are being written. CCF will take the lead on getting the trail built, including wetland filings in Acton. CCF plans to have the easement surveyed and staked.

New Business:**Proposal for Banta Davis Loop Trail:**

Carlisle resident and frequent Trails Committee volunteer Bob Goldsmith proposed a new loop trail that would follow the west and south edges of Banta Davis and connect to the existing trail network. He was concerned that the proposed dog park might prevent such a loop and asked if the Trails Committee could work with the Recreation Commission on siting of the dog park. Steve reported that he had just received a copy of the dog park plan from the RecCom administrator for another reason. When he overlaid it on a map with property lines, it not only extended to the Town land boundary but appeared to extend past onto private land of Mary Zoll that is under a Conservation Restriction. Steve forwarded that information to the RecCom on June 28; there has not been time for them to meet and discuss it. Alan will contact RecCom and

ask if we can work with them on the dog park layout.

South Street (Zanga) property:

This property is of interest as a possible trail connection between Spencer Brook Reservation and the Benfield Conservation Land. It was recently purchased by Derek Zanga for a new single-family home. The Planning Board held a Scenic Road hearing to widen the stone wall opening for a driveway (approved) and the Conservation Commission has an open hearing to define the wetland boundaries on the property.

Cutter's Ridge Trail Easement:

Marc reported that a recent inspection of the Conservation Restriction (CR) trail easement on Cutter's Ridge Road by the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee revealed that the CR prohibits travel by bicycles. The landowner reported increased bike traffic and asked that the Town post signs to prevent it. Marc will take the lead on designing a sign and report back at the next meeting. Steve will notify the organizer of the Carlisle mountain bike tour.

Curve Street Bridge Improvements:

The Town DPW received a wetland permit for new guard rails at the River Meadow Brook bridge on Curve Street at the Cranberry Bog. The guard rail design will require the entrance to the Otter Slide trail to be moved closer to the Bog House. The Trails Committee is concerned that the grades, soils, and vegetation may be a problem in the new location, particularly for horseback riders and bicyclists. The detailed plans are on the ConsCom's web site.

Recent Trail Work:

Steve mowed trails at Davis Corridor, Foss Farm, Fox Hill, Malcolm, Sachs, Bisbee, Spencer Brook, Towle, Otter Slide, Elliott, Piggery Road and the Red-tail trail with the DR trimmer. Steve removed fallen trees at Bisbee and Greenough. Henry cleared two trees on the Davis Corridor.

Future Activity Planning:

Steve will coordinate volunteer work days on July 8 at Rangeway or Great Meadows (brushing), July 11 at Woodward (new trail), and July 21 at Greenough (Japanese knotweed removal).

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for August 6, 2021 at 7:30 pm, again to be held by video conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.