

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2021
Minutes approved September 10, 2021
Steve Tobin, Secretary

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

Guests: Cosmo Catalano, Mike Picard, Mary Russell, Bert Willard, Sylvia Willard

Meeting was held via video conference. The meeting was opened by Chair Alan Ankers at 7:34 PM.

Documents Presented:

None

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the July 2 meeting were approved as written.

Bills:

Marc moved and Roy seconded to reimburse Warren for bench hardware from the Trails Gifts account: \$169.78 for brackets and \$94.75 for bolts. The motion was approved unanimously. Marc moved and Charlene seconded to pay the bill from Concord Lumber from the Trails Gifts account: \$794.42 for lumber for benches and duck boards. The motion passed unanimously.

Greenough - Eagle Scout Project:

Josh Sun's 30-foot bridge project was accomplished on July 31 (Steve helped) after placing bumpers the previous evening. Materials were moved from the O'Rourke barn to the site by the DPW on July 30, and they left a dump truck on site for the collapsed shed that was removed as part of the project. Steve met with John Troast of the Historical Society on July 13 to make sure there was nothing of historical interest in the shed. On July 21 Steve worked with Mike Picard (Trekker candidate) and Mary Russell to cut and bag Japanese knotweed on the relocated trail near the Greenough barn.

Woodward Village:

Trail clearing for the new over-the-hill trail was done on July 11 (1/4 mile). Sharon Kenney and Jeff Johnson helped for their Trekker service projects. Sylvia said that a revised deed for transferring the Woodward Village open space to the Town was nearly complete.

Benches:

Marc hosted a bench construction party on July 17. 15 bench kits were mostly completed. Another work day was scheduled for August 14 to drill the seats and backs.

Boardwalk Repair:

We were notified by Building Inspector Jon Metivier that there were several dangerous holes in a contractor-constructed boardwalk on the paved pathway along Cross Street. Steve installed temporary plywood patches the next day. When the boardwalks were installed (2014?) as part of the subdivision process it was never clear who was in charge of maintaining them. They used thinner deck boards with wider overhangs than our standard design and have not held up well. Steve showed Powerpoint slides of the construction details. The committee decided to offer to replace the most rotten decking boards now and propose a complete re-decking of the 4 boardwalks with 2x6 lumber next year. The DPW will be asked to fund the materials. Alan will survey the boardwalks to see how many boards need to be replaced now and order the lumber on the Town account.

Bumpers:

We are down to one bumper and Warren asked if we should get more now. The decision was to hold off until the spring at least because prices are very high now and we have no imminent projects.

Duck Boards:

Warren bought materials for more duck boards.

Trail Clearing:

Steve and Roy spent a morning pulling invasive spotted knapweed from the gravel road near the O'Rourke barn on Aug. 11. They were joined by Rob from USFWS who agreed the problem was much too large for hand pulling. He took photos and will prepare a report to his boss.

Greenough Dam Repair:

The project is moving faster than expected, with work to start immediately. Alan attended a pre-construction meeting with Sylvia. The trail across the dam will be closed during construction, but Wood Duck trail access from Pauline Road in Billerica will be maintained at the request of neighbors. Alan put up signs at Greenough entrances letting people know the dam trail is closed for a few months.

Valentine Trail Easement:

CCF paid to have the relocated trail section in Acton surveyed and staked. A walk is scheduled Aug. 15 to see if any location tweaks are needed. Alan and Steve will attend.

South Street (Zanga) property:

Cons Com hearings to define the wetland boundaries on the property are continuing.

Cutter's Ridge Trail Easement:

The Committee thought a simple "No Bikes" sign at each end of the trail easement would be appropriate. Marc will pick a design and talk to the landowners before going to Cons Com for approval (they hold the Conservation Restriction).

Banta Davis Dog Park:

Steve reported on the July 14 Rec Com meeting. They were receptive to Bob Goldsmith's proposed new loop trail that would follow the west and south edges of Banta Davis and agreed to consider it as the Dog Park planning progresses. Rec Com is setting up a Dog Park planning subcommittee to develop detailed plans for presentation at 2022 Town Meeting.

MTB50 Mountain Bike Ride:

Alan let Jack Huntress know the Greenough dam won't be usable for their October ride. Jack plans to send us a revised route for comment.

New Business:

Trekker Awards:

Mary Russell (#62) and Michael Picard (#63) joined the meeting to receive their Trekker awards. Mary said she'd hiked to Everest base camp, Machu Picchu, and Kilimanjaro, but found Carlisle's trails humbling and amazing. She didn't understand what a great resource she had close by. She complimented us on our maintenance and signage. She also was shocked by the beauty of the Trekker certificate, patch, and plaque. Mike's favorite hikes were the Benfield trails; he enjoyed the terrain. He found our intersection markers unique and enjoyable, and they took selfies with several.

Sharron Kenney (#60) and Jeff Johnson (#61) will receive their awards at a future meeting.

Fox Hill Mowing:

Rec Com forwarded a quote from their contractor for \$50 to mow the Fox Hill Trail, with a recommended interval of every two weeks. The committee decided not to spend the money as long as Steve is willing to do it for free.

Recent Trail Work:

Steve mowed trails at Foss Farm, Fox Hill, Towle, and Great Meadows with the DR trimmer and at Daniels Connector and Elliott with a battery-powered string trimmer.

Steve removed fallen trees at Banta Davis (2), Ben's Woods, Conant, Cranberry Bog, Davis Corridor (2), Great Brook (2), Rockstrom (2), and Woodhaven.

Henry Cox cleared two trees at Woodhaven, two at Great Meadows and one in the Davis Corridor.

Bob Goldsmith cleared trees at Conant, Great Brook, and Woodward.

Future Activity Planning:

Bench construction on August 14 at Marc's.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm, again to be held by video conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.