

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2016
Steve Tobin, Acting Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Louise Hara, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin.
Guests: Barbara Nill, Tom Brownrigg.

Documents Presented:

None.

Old Business:

Approve Meeting Minutes:

The minutes for the February 26, 2016 meeting were approved as amended.

Trail Signs and Intersection Numbering:

A work date of April 24 at 9 am, meeting at Town Hall, was set to install sign posts at the Davis Corridor, Greenough, and Benfield/Bisbee. Alan will bevel the posts and deliver to the work sites. Steve will send a volunteer opportunity notice to CCHS.

Otter Slide Trail Bridges:

Beavers are gone and the water level is down. The Otter Slide trail is heavily damaged. The committee will walk the trail and develop a repair plan on April 10 at 9 am, meeting at the Bog House.

New Trail at 81 Russell Street:

A trial started this week on the abutter's appeal of the Planning Board decision to permit a senior housing development, including new trails.

New Trail at Benfield Conservation Land:

The committee will walk the forested upland to begin laying out a new trail on April 10 after the Otter Slide walk. Rec Com manages this land and will need to give permission before a trail is built.

Trail Book Updates:

Louise, Alan, and Steve met on Feb. 27 to resolve issues with the trail book. Subsequently, three landowners (Findlay, Arnold, Woodward) gave permission to show their private trails in the book. Other private landowners still need to be contacted. Louise is continuing to work on text revisions. Alan dropped off 40 books for sale at Town Hall. We are down to the last box or so of the old books.

Banta to Fox Hill Trail Relocation:

Marc will talk to John Bakewell about relocating the trail through his Fox Hill farm area.

Sorli Farm – Ryan Land:

There will be public walks April 17 and 30 at 1 pm, in advance of the May Town Meeting

vote to purchase a Conservation Restriction on part of the Sorli Farm, including a trail easement to CCF's Ryan Land.

Woodhaven Farm Protection – Hal's Boardwalk:

Marc and Alan worked with the surveyor to refine the location of the trail easement on Woodhaven Farm and define the parcel containing Hal's Boardwalk that will be donated to the town. The trail easement from Prospect Street through the field was staked. Steve walked the adjacent Davis Corridor land and reported there are opportunities to route part of the perimeter trail through the Town land to avoid wet areas along the back stone wall.

New Web Site:

Alan worked with David Freedman, who is revising the Town's web site, on Trails Committee content. Most of the current Trails Committee web site information will be moved to the Town site.

New Business:

Towle Field Restoration:

Tom Brownrigg of Cons Com presented a plan to remove buckthorn and poison ivy from Towle Field to restore its historic uses of bobolink nesting and public recreation. CPA funding of the plan is being requested at Town Meeting in May. Louise Hara moved that the Trails Committee support the CPA funding request for poison ivy and buckthorn eradication at Towle Field. The motion passed unanimously.

Cross Street Footpath Maintenance:

The secretary was directed to draft a note to the Cons Com that the Trails Committee does not plan to maintain this or other paved footpaths.

West Street Subdivision:

The Planning Board approved a 4-lot subdivision off West Street (Brophy land). It includes a paved footpath from West Street to a cul-de-sac and a trail easement from there to CCF's 11.5 acre Pannell Land. We will maintain the trail but not the pavement.

Material storage – O'Rourke barn:

Steve was notified by USFWS that they are seeking funds to demolish the barn where we store lumber. The work will probably occur in mid-2017. USFWS offered the open-sided roofed structure for our use, but the committee felt this was too exposed to the weather. Marc will talk to the DPW to see if they have storage space available, after defining how much space we need.

Recent Activities:

Warren cleared 10 trees in Towle. Steve did clearing and signage at Elliott.

Planned Activities:

A vernal pool walk is scheduled for April 9 at 10 am at Greenough.

A walk from Foss to Greenough will be offered for Riverfest on June 18.

Trekker Award:

Sarah Sutton earned the Carlisle Trekker Award. She arrived at the last two scheduled Trails Committee meetings that were canceled for weather, and couldn't attend tonight's meeting. Marc will deliver the patch and certificate.

Schedule next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on May 6.