

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2016
Louise Hara, Acting Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Henry Cox, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin, Louise Hara
Guests: Sylvia Willard

Documents Presented:

None.

Old Business:

Approve Meeting Minutes:

The minutes for the July 1, 2016 meeting were approved with minor adjustment, “to Ryan land” changed to “on Ryan Land”: approved 4, abstain 1.

Trail Signs and Intersection Numbering: Davis Corridor signs in Harvard’s Estabrook Woods will be put in after obtaining approval from Harvard (requested through Nick D’Arbeloff). Other Davis corridor signs have been installed with help from the Boy Scouts putting in posts on July 24. Need students to paint more signs. All signs that were done are installed. More posts could be put in. With penned numbers, they can function until painted signs are installed.

Otter Slide bridges: Warren will be talking to Louise about wetland filing process.

Benches: There are still two benches at Bert and Sylvia’s waiting for installation. The one on Wood Duck trail has graffiti on it.

Old Morse Road: No work this month

Rodgers Rd: no work this month

81 Russell St.: No ruling has been made by the court yet.

Spencer Brook boardwalks: Alan wants to be included in the meeting on how to do wetland filings.

Trail Book: David Freedman can start work on the book in September. Louise has talked to Tim Fohl on sacred rocks in Benfield. He is willing to take the committee on a walk to identify what he has found.

Banta/ Fox Hill trails: Marc needs to talk to John Bakewell. Some of the trail has been mowed since last month.

Sorli/Ryan: Transaction to purchase CR has not been completed and is expected to finish after November. CRAC is reviewing the CR. Parking area needs to happen before anyone can access the land.

Woodhaven Farm: A July 23 site visit was done to refine the trail location. There will be a loop out to the Davis Corridor. About 20% of the trail will deviate onto Davis Corridor land. There is a section of multiflora rose and other invasives which screen the adjacent neighbor from the trail location. This will need to be considered when laying out the trail. Some trails will be explored on the Davis land to connect back to Two Rod Road. The trail section connecting to the Davis trail is cleared. Alan will work on a sign which tells people that the trail is in progress but not completed. "New trail under construction and ends in" will be set back from the start of the trail. Alan will meet with Dan Stimson to keep him informed. Trails committee will carry most of the work.

O'Rourke barn: No changes yet; 2017 teardown date. We need to find a new location for lumber.

New Business:

Estabrook Woods: A Concord committee is coming up with parking recommendations for greater Estabrook Woods. They have a proposed hierarchy of parking areas:

Deeded public access with parking: Punkatasset, Chamberlin Woods, Malcom Preserve, Prospect St. (Woodhaven Farm). Steve will request that Prospect St. be removed from list.

Permitted Public Access Points with Parking: Estabrook Road, Kibby Place

Neighborhood access point with no parking: 10 locations. Steve noted that Bellows Hill Trail and Old Foot Trail (Stoney Gate) should not be included in the lists as they are private trails. He will notify the committee of recommendations for changes. Nowell Farme and Long Ridge could be put in as neighborhood roads with no parking.

Recent Activities:

Benfield platform: Steve reported that the new plaque is in, with help from Steve Hinton. The glue on the old sign did not hold so it was easily removed. Coefficients of expansions do not match between the steel and the plastic. The new one was put on the steel plate with a different adhesive.

Other trail work since last meeting:

Aberdeen Drive signs were put in on July 24.

Greenough: Steve penned numbers on sign posts.

River Trail: Alan removed 3 trees. Henry reported that one of them could be cut further as it has dropped down some. It is off the dam to the trail heading toward the river.

Davis Corridor: Steve cleared the trail 3 hours before the wind storm. Perfection destroyed yet again.

Bisbee: Steve removed a fallen tree.

The Herolds did work on clearing the Foss-Greenough and Davis trails. The list is enormous and is included below.

Plan future activities:

Priorities for Building New Trails: Steve wants Woodhaven to be first, ahead of Sorli, Benfield, and Lions Gate. Louise would like to get as many new ones into the trails book as possible.

Other New Business:

Elliott: Sylvia reported the bridge on Elliott is complete. Landscape and surroundings have not been finished yet, so we should get in to set the trail around it. Coordination needs to be done between the contractor and Cons Com and other parties including reps of the new owner. New owner wants to do major work on SVT conservation land. SVT needs to coordinate internally. Activity will escalate and will need watching. An electric gate is shown on details on the plan. The legal trail access over the bridge needs to be kept open.

Greenough: Sylvia reported the notice of intent is soon to be filed to repair the Greenough dam. Cons Com is filing with donations and some funds from the Conservation Fund. Gary Davis will be doing some of the work.

Cranberry Bog: Sylvia reported that a study for the Cranberry Bog is moving forward. Mark Duffy has agreed to continue for a year with help from the town. The town is now mowing along the edges. Should the town take over doing it permanently? The committee will be seeking feedback on whether there are ways to make some income off use of equipment from the bog or whether trails or DPW can make regular use of equipment. Trails members felt that DPW would have more use of machines. The committee might need help on an occasional basis for a few parcels of land where poison ivy gets out of control.

Sylvia also reported fallen trees with a huge root ball on corner of Cranberry Bog, heading toward Fiske Street. Gary will be called to help with this.

Trail books/Ferns: 50 books and invoice dropped off at Ferns: Alan reported and Sylvia confirmed that Trails received \$500 from Ferns : check is going straight to our account through Sylvia. Marc will be notified of the \$500.

Message from Gretchen Caywood (Planning Board): Planning Board liaison to trails is Jason Walsh We should invite him to a meeting.

Town Forest: Warren reported that the markers have not yet been put up on the Coyote Rock Trail. And also the water bar on the trail at East Street needs to be cleared.

Gage Woodlot: Warren asked if we wanted a trail on the Gage wood lot. Given the current rogue trails on the property, it would be too confusing for us to put on new trails. The consensus was to let it grow out.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for September 2.

Aug. 4 email from Roy and Helen Herold on work done on trails:

A few trail maintenance notes:

1. Board has been replaced on Red-Tail boardwalk. Unfortunately, it was installed in the smiley instead of frowny orientation, but should work for a while.

Lots of trees and branches down after the windstorm a couple of week ago:

2. Big tree down just past first River Trail boardwalk. We got most of it cut up and hauled away, but the remaining trunk is up to the trail edge. Probably not worth worrying about.

3. Two trees down on north end of Red-Tail. Sawed and hauled.

4. Big rotten tree down on north end of Davis. Hauled to the edge of the trail, might want to roll back farther.

5. Couple of trees (one old) down on Piggery. Sawed and hauled.

6. Tree down on Twin Peaks bypass. No saw, no action.

7. Couple of droopy birches on Marion's should be cut down. No saw, no action. Enjoyed the Goodyera at the end of Marion's.

I'm sure there's another that needs attention, but it's not that memorable-----

8. Lots of basic cosmetic pruning along the edges of all the Foss-Greenough and Davis trails, mainly buckthorn, roses, bittersweet, little oaks, clethra, button bush, etc.

9. Nice job on all the new Davis signs. We liked the salamander with the multicolored spots. Standing by here for any new sign routing/machining requirements.

10. The first graffiti has appeared on the Wood Duck bench. Sigh.