

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2017
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Louise Hara, Roy Herold, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin
Guests: Sylvia Willard, Bert Willard, Steve Hinton

Documents Presented:

None.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes for the July 14, 2017 meeting were approved with minor amendments.

767 Bedford Road:

Steve Hinton outlined an initiative being pursued by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF), involving the land being taken out of Chapter 61A and also the adjacent, much larger, property owned by other members of the Woodward family. The proposal involves a complex deal including developers, CCF and the Board of Selectmen, which would result in the preservation of a large acreage of open space, and securing public access to the existing network of trails abutting Great Meadows NWR. Mr. Hinton was seeking the Committee's support in this initiative. The committee voted in favor of supporting this expanded effort and sending a letter to the Selectmen. Marc had previously sent a memo noting the value of trail connections made available if the Town exercise its right of first refusal on the Chapter 61A land, and will now draft a memo to the Selectmen expressing the Committee's support for CCF's expanded initiative.

Trail Book Update:

Louise reported that work was progressing, albeit slowly.

Trail Intersection Signs:

Steve reported that the school Art Club had finished 32 more signs and he was almost done sealing them. The remainder of the signs are expected to be completed in the next two years. There are 16 posts remaining to be installed.

Rodgers Road Trail:

CRAC did an inspection of the Conservation Restriction that includes the trail easement on August 27, and will speak to the owner about potentially expanding the easement to provide flexibility in relocating the trail. Christine Stevens, who lives next to the trail, is holding a neighborhood party later in September and invited the Trails Committee to attend and discuss the trail and its attendant issues. Steve and Alan will attend.

Benches:

Roy has obtained the plans from Bert and will prepare a cost estimate for the construction of twelve benches.

New Business:

Greenough Land in Billerica:

Steve Hinton noted that he has been working with the land owner at the end of Queensland Road in Billerica, which abuts the CCF-owned portion of the Greenough Land in Billerica. He thought it may be possible to obtain an easement to allow access to the Greenough Land from the end of Queensland Road, and wondered if the Committee had interest in such a trail connection. The Committee agreed that it would be worthwhile to pursue this opportunity.

Libby Herland's Retirement

Libby Herland of US Fish & Wildlife has a retirement party scheduled for September 24, at Assabet NWR. Some members of the Committee who have worked with Libby in the past plan to attend.

Greystone Trail:

Greg Fairbank, who owns the property at the end of Captain Wilson with the easement for the first part of the trail connecting to Bingham Road, had contacted Marc about some trail work Marc had done nearby. Alan will contact Greg to work out the best location for trail signs, which are badly needed in this location.

MacAfee Trail:

Marc will contact Mr. Wu about the location of trail sign posts on his property on Kimball Road.

Deer Committee:

Steve, the Trails Committee's representative, reported that the Deer Committee was seeking input on appropriate setbacks from trails in parcels that may be able to accommodate hunting. The committee agreed that the one hundred foot setback used for several other situations would also be appropriate for trails.

Finances:

Marc noted that, as of August 24, the account balances were as follows:

- Trail maps account \$16,066.30
- Trails Grant \$920.51
- Gift account \$749.00
- CPA Capital Projects \$4,202.45

Trail Work Since Last Meeting:

Marc removed some trees from the Greystone trail; trimmed the MacAfee Trail; and removed two downed oaks from the Tupelo trail.

Warren removed four fallen trees from trails in the Town Forest.

Roy had cleared several fallen trees but did not have a detailed inventory available.

Andrew Joslin, a local experienced arborist, offered his help for any future difficult tree removal work.

Future Activities:

Two work sessions were scheduled:

Sunday Sept 3, 9:00 AM - Repair work on the Tobin Bridge in Great Meadows.
Sunday Sept 17, 9:00 AM - Sign post installation, meeting at Town Hall.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for October 6.