

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2018  
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Henry Cox, Roy Herold, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin  
Guests: Jonathan DeKock, Jim Gettys, Claude Von Roesgen, Mike Oulighan

**Documents Presented:**

None.

**Old Business:**

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes for the February 2, 2018 meeting were approved as amended.

**Mannis Land / Oak Knoll:**

Jonathan DeKock and Jim Gettys reported that they had met with neighbors about the new trail proposal, with a mixed reception. Opposition is mostly related to the access over Mr. Gettys's driveway. They will continue to meet with neighbors, including others who have not yet been included, in an attempt to resolve some of the issues.

**New Trail Book:**

Louise sent out a number of draft pages for review by Committee members. Steve will collect comments to pass on to Louise, by the end of the next week.

**Trail Intersection Signs:**

Steve reported that he had collected GPS coordinates for most of the sign locations, to include in a database.

**Rodgers Road Trail:**

Marc reported that the new Trail Easement document drafted by Town Counsel has been delivered to Mr. Cunnigham.

**Finance and Funding:**

Marc reported that he had discussed spending authority with Priscilla Dumka, the Town Accountant, and learned that the revolving fund is defined in a bylaw and applies only to the Trail Books Account. He had requested the Selectmen to raise the spending limit for this year to \$12,500, which they had approved at their February 13 meeting; it was also approved by the Finance Committee at their February 26 meeting

March reported that he had heard from Luke Ascolillo that the CPC had approved a three-year extension for spending the CPA funds.

**Wood Pallets:**

Marc reported that he had contacted Jon Storer, who was not yet ready to deliver the boardwalk sections. Marc requested that Committee members come up with a list of places to locate them, and record them on a new page on the "downed trees" log, for discussion at a future meeting.

**New Benfield Trail:**

Roy has made two new signs for Hidden Pond end of the trail, now ready for mounting.

**Trail Mowing:**

Jonathan DeKock had volunteered to mow trails with his tractor. He had talked to Jack O'Connor who had offered the use of a cutter. He would like a list of trails that may need mowing. This will be done by Committee members adding locations to a new page on the "downed trees" log, for discussion at a future meeting.

Marc said he would review liability issues with the Town.

**Discussion Topics:****Public Walks:**

Steve opened a discussion on public walks by asking "Are we in a rut?"

The general consensus seemed to be that we are not, but that it might be worth exploring ways to broaden the publicity to reach different people. One immediate way to do this is to be in contact the Carlisle Parents Facebook group. It could also be worthwhile to send advance notices to the email list in addition to those closer to the time of the event.

**New Business:****Complete Streets Program**

Selectman Claude Von Roesgen gave an overview of the "Complete Streets" program, which the Town is considering. The concept is to improve the "walkability" of the town, with better and safer access, particularly to the town center (i.e. radial), without using roads; State grants may be available. He thought that trails could play an important part in this potential program.

Several Committee members responded that this long has been a Trails Committee goal, and is stated as such in the 5-year plan noted in the most recent Open Space & Recreation Report, but the major obstacle is the difficulty in obtaining permission to cross private land.

Marc concluded by resolving that the Committee will be happy to help out with the work if the Town can acquire the land and/or permissions required.

**Trail Work Since Last Meeting:**

From the "Downed Tress" log:

Steve cleared three trees at Banta-Davis and Foss Farm on February 17, and one at Hidden Pond (Benfield ) on February 24.

Warren cleared a tree from the Blueberry Trail on March 1.

**Future Activities:**

Alan reported that Bryan Windmiller is not available to lead a vernal pool this spring. The Committee decided to host a general nature walk instead, on Earth Day, April 22. Alan will lead the walk and arrange notices for the Mosquito.

Riverfest is the weekend of June 15-17, and notices are required by March 30. The Committee decided to host a walk on June 16, at Foss Farm and Great Meadows. Alan will lead the walk and

send the relevant information to the Riverfest Committee.

**Schedule Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 30.