

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2018
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Henry Cox, Louise Hara, Roy Herold, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin, Jonathan DeKock
Guests: Sylvia Willard, Bert Willard, Bob Goldsmith

Documents Presented:

“Trail Maintenance Guidelines” by Warren Spence

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

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

Trail Signs:

Steve reported that three new posts were installed on November 10 (with help from Jonathan and Alan): two at Daniels Lane and one on the Woodhaven Farm trail; and the post at Hanover Road was raised.

Rodgers Road Trail:

The Committee voted to approve payment of \$66.73 from the Trails Grant Account to reimburse Bert Willard for refreshments supplied during the work days.

Russell Street Trails:

Marc reported that he had confirmed that the developer will contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of boardwalks. Marc and Louise will scout potential boardwalk locations and lengths.

Associate Membership:

Steve reported that the Selectmen appointed Jonathan DeKock as an Associate Member of the Committee at their November 27 meeting. Jonathan reported that he had been sworn in at the Town Clerk’s office.

CPA Funding:

Marc reported that the CPC definitions chart includes “Rehabilitation and/or Restoration” as appropriate uses of CPA funds. The application is due on February 1. Marc suggested that the same application from 2010 could be used, with an updated list of possible boardwalks to be built.

Banta-Davis Trails:

Warren reported that he had sent a narrative to Rec Com and the School Committee describing the situation related to moving part of the trail off the field and into the woods. Dave Model (School Committee) had responded with some questions. Warren will meet with the School Committee on December 12.

Trail Adoption:

Warren submitted proposed "Trail Maintenance Guidelines." The Committee voted to adopt this document. Alan will send it to the email list and have it posted on the web site.

Greenough Dam:

Steve reported that he had sent a letter of support to ConsCom, noting the importance of the dam as a trail.

New Business:

Post-Thanksgiving Walk:

Steve reported that 35 people participated on the walk, in very pleasant weather, on November 23.

Deer Committee Report:

Steve reported that the hunting season is now over; ten deer were taken.

Recent Trail Work:

Steve, Henry, Alan, Marc, Roy, Warren and Jonathan repaired/rebuilt about 15 ft. of boardwalk at the south end of the Tobin Bridge on November 4.

Steve cleared trees at Towle and Daniels Lane.

Roy cleared various trees from Rockstrom, Towle, Davis Corridor and Greenough.

Trail adopter Don Smith cleared a pine from the Blueberry Trail.

Future Activities:

The annual moonlight walk was scheduled for Saturday January 19 at Foss Farm. Henry suggested having a small fire to toast marshmallows, and will pursue the appropriate permissions/notifications.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for January 4.

Trail Maintenance Guidelines

Carlisle Trails Committee

Thank you for adopting a trail in Carlisle. We have over 60 miles of trails in Carlisle, and we need your help in maintaining the trails. Trail vegetation and especially invasive plants such as buckthorn, bittersweet vines, and multiflora roses grow very rapidly and must be trimmed, to keep the trails open. Native species such as highbush blueberry also grow near trails; these are slow growing, and must be identified and conserved. Thank you for keeping our trails open and beautiful.

Safety. When doing trail work we recommend you wear gloves, eye protection, sturdy shoes, and long pants. During tick season, tuck your pants in your socks and use an insect repellent generously before cutting brush. Carry water to stay hydrated.

Useful Equipment. Most trimming can be done with long-handled loppers and handsaws. The Trails Committee has found that an arborist type folding handsaw to be superior to bow saws for branches up to 8 or 10 inches in diameter. Low non-woody vegetation such as ferns can be cut using a swing-blade.

Maintenance Guidelines. Trail width should be as wide as your two arms outreached. No vegetation should touch you when walking the trail. Trim branches and shoots growing into a trail. Cut side branches near the trunk and shoots at ground level – stubs are tripping and snagging hazards. All trimmings and blowdown branches should be removed from the trail and hidden from sight. For buckthorn, it is best to remove the entire plant at the roots if possible by hand pulling or a weed wrench. Be very careful cutting or removing poison ivy if you are allergic.

Some trails are on private lands or near homes. Be careful and respectful of these homes and do not create any eyesores or brush piles. Place all cuttings out of sight of any homeowner.

Branches and trees occasionally are blown down by storms. Please cut them up and drag them off the trail and away from sight. The cut end should point away from the trail and not be visible. Do not create obvious piles of brush but put the branches in many different places spread over a wider area, farther away from the trail.

Some of the trees that fall are large and dangerous, particularly those not fully on the ground. Do not tackle a tree you are not absolutely sure you can handle. Trails Committee members can safely cut some of these trees, and sometimes we request the assistance of an experienced professional arborist. Please notify the Carlisle Trails Committee if you want assistance with any downed trees at carlisletrails@comcast.net.

If you notice trail signage that is damaged or missing, please notify the Trails Committee. Also please notify the Committee of problems with bridges and boardwalks on your trail.

The Carlisle Trails Committee will answer any questions and support you in your trail maintenance in any way that we can. Thank you for helping to keep our local trails properly maintained for all to enjoy.

November 2018