

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: January 6, 2023
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Members Present: Alan Ankers, Chris Chiapella, Roy Herold, Charlene Hinton, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin

Members Absent: none

Guests:

Bert and Sylvia Willard, 34 Bellows Hill Rd.

Saul Jacobowitz, 25 Russell St.

Lee Tatistcheff, 130 Oak Knoll Rd.

Christina Christodouloupoulos (Environmental Sustainability Committee), 46 Hemlock Hill Rd.

Eric Balles (Environmental Sustainability Committee), 105 Nowell Farme Rd.

Russell Ruthen, 136 Pine Brook Rd.

Marjorie Johnson, 61 Ember Lane

Bob Goldsmith, 771 Lowell Rd.

Meeting was held via video conference.

The meeting was opened by Chair Steve Tobin at 7:31 PM.

Documents Presented:

“Honoring Indigenous Peoples” by Russell Ruthen

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

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

Bills:

None.

2022 Goals:

Tophet East Trail:

Steve reported that he and Alan had met with Brian Waterson, who abuts the easement on the east side, to discuss the issues on December 9. In addition to the high volume of bike traffic, the residents are concerned about trail users on the private road; the easement follows the edge the road, though the exact relationship is not clear. Steve had also attended a meeting with the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) and asked them to spread the word in the biking community that bikes are not allowed on that section of trail.

Malcolm Meadows Wet Areas:

Steve noted that no progress had been made on this goal. A site meeting was arranged for Sunday, January 8 to assess the situation.

Other Old Business:

Russell Street trail:

Marc thought that the non-slip strips on the stair treads looked good and were effective. They may be something to consider using elsewhere, but first we should see how well they hold up over time. Steve noted that he had to nail down the strips because the adhesive was ineffective and they had started to peel off.

Trail Map Books:

Marc suggested that somebody else take over his role of distributing the trail map books to various outlets for sale, such as Ferns and the Town Clerk's office. Chris agreed to take on this task.

New Business:

Trekker Awards:

Two new Trekker Award recipients were recognized.

Saul Jacobowitz (#69) moved to Carlisle in August 2021, bought the trail maps book and started walking the trails immediately. He completed them in June 2022 and then helped on the Valentine boardwalk project in the fall. He particularly enjoyed the Foss Farm – Great Meadows system for its length and the Towle land for its variety.

Lee Tatistcheff (#70) started working on the award in January 2014 and finished in December 2022, having completed a work day at Benfield in the spring. She noted that her husband made sure she covered every segment of trail, and she had to repeat several trails that had been previously hiked but not recorded. Steve commented that her Trekker log was the most detailed he'd ever seen. Lee was very familiar with the land from her long time on ConsCom and loved the great variety across the trail system and the differences between individual trails.

Environmental Sustainability Committee:

Christina Christodouloupoulos and Eric Balles joined the meeting, representing the newly-formed Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Christina described an Earth Day Event that their committee was planning, to be held on April 22, called "The Route to Sustainability." It will include a short walking route in the center of town encompassing various sites of interest, with display tables for represented groups. She hoped the Trails Committee would participate, perhaps highlighting sustainability and/or connectivity. All agreed this was worthwhile. Ideas included a large map of the trails system highlighting interconnectivity, and perhaps a trail walk as a follow-up event.

Eric discussed a more wide-ranging goal, of encouraging "active transportation" (by non-motorized means) to reduce carbon footprint. He would like to work with the Trails Committee to enhance connectivity of neighborhoods, and wondered about the effects of potential increased trail usage, including bikes.

All agreed that this was a long-standing Trails Committee goal. Steve noted that the OS&R report includes a "wish list" of potential trail connections that currently do not have legal access, and he had been thinking about codifying allowed uses of trails.

Indigenous Sites Recognition:

Carlisle resident Russ Ruthen is proposing the installation of interpretative plaques and historical markers to highlight a number of sites in town linked to indigenous peoples, to coincide with the 350th anniversary of Metacomet's Rebellion (aka King Philip's War) in 2025. He gave a presentation with a short history of local indigenous events, and identified Acton's "Trail through Time" as a potential model. The best-known sites are in the State Park, and he has met with them to discuss the recognition of three important sites on the Garrison Loop. He mentioned that he has some suggested edits for the trail map book, but these were based on the older 2010 version. He is requesting support, but not funding, from the Committee.

While the Committee was generally supportive of these efforts, Steve noted that the overall responsibility for the land was with ConsCom and the Land Stewardship Committee, and also that careful coordination would be required with representatives of local Native American tribes, who have previously requested that there *NOT* be signs drawing attention to indigenous sites.

Goals for 2023:

Goals for the upcoming year were discussed. Three unfinished items from 2022 will carry over:

- Woodward Village trails – when construction is complete
- Malcolm Meadows Wet Areas
- Tophet East trail easement – now focussed on resolving the neighborhood issues

The following new goals were added:

- Create an inventory of allowed and prohibited uses of trails and easements. Marc offered to research any that are covered by Conservation Restrictions (he is a member of the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee). Chris offered to help research others.
- Consider enhanced online mapping linked to GIS and GPS systems.
- Work with the Environmental Sustainability Committee on interconnectivity.

Master Plan Implementation:

Steve reported that he had received an email from Ryan McLane, the Town Administrator, regarding implementation of the Master Plan. Steve had followed up with Julie Mercier, the new Town Planner. There are four items listing the Trails Committee as an involved party:

- *10a. Evaluate the Town's Complete Streets policy and prioritization plan.*
Trails Committee will provide input as required.
- *10b. Create/maintain GIS data layers of roadway, pathway, and off-road trail networks (by type and ownership) to assist in coordinated maintenance, planning, and funding.*
Steve met with Julie Mercier about this; she was looking for a data layer for trails. Steve Hinton may be able to help with this.
- *10c. Plan and pursue funding for expansion of pathways in strategic locations.*
Trails Committee involvement appears to be minimal.
- *10d. Consider environmental impact when developing new or expanded trails.*
Trails Committee will have ongoing responsibility for this.

Letter of Support:

Sylvia Willard requested a letter of support from the Committee for rebuilding the dam at the Cranberry Bog. Steve will provide one.

Future Activity Planning:

Details were finalized for the moonlight walk on Saturday, January 7.
No other activities were planned for January.

Recent Trail Work:

Steve cleared trees from the Rockstrom trail, Davis Corridor, Pine Point, Woodchuck, East Tophet, Twin Peaks, Great Meadows, Foss Farm, Marion's trail, Benfield, Towle, Elliott Preserve, Blood Farm and Piggery trail.

Marc cleared a tree from the Tupelo trail.

Warren removed several fallen trees in the Town Forest.

Bob Goldsmith cleared trees at Two Rod Road, Malcolm Meadows, Hart Farm, Pines loop, Fern loop and Marion's trail.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for February 3, 2023 at 7:30 pm, to be held by video conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.