

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Jan. 7, 2025

Minutes Approved:

Members Present: Steve Tobin, Warren Spence, Marc Lamere, Alan Ankers, Adam Chojnacki, Kath Hardcastle Nastuk

Members Absent: None

Members Present Remotely: Sarah Carmichael

Associate Members Present: Mark Longwell, Merritt Maxim

Associate Members Present Remotely: Patricia Wolfe

Guests Present: Bob Goldsmith of 771 Lowell Street, Sylvia Willard of 34 Bellows Hill Rd

The meeting was held in hybrid mode, in person at the Clark Room of Town Hall and via video conference. The meeting was opened by Chair Steve Tobin at 6:30 PM.

Documents Presented:

None

Recurring Business:

- **Minutes** of 12-10-25 were approved as amended.
- **Bills:** No new bills. We received a gift for \$500 from an anonymous donor which will go into the gift account.

Goals for 2025:

Conservation Land activities (High/Medium/Low):

- Woodward Land trails (H) – Pat. Situation continues to be fluid, and multiple committees may need to be notified. People are walking the trails that exist, and it is unclear whether the land's future (agricultural or native plants) will affect the trails. We think those existing pathways should continue to exist in either future situation.
- Old Morse Road erosion (M/H) – Bob. No update.
- Elliott steep trail remediation (M) – approvals are in, project is waiting for spring.

Support Eagle Scout projects (H):

- Brady Quayle, new Town Forest trail. Some contact between Brady and Warren.
- Lucas Milliken, Great Meadows sign kiosk at Greenough entrance. Lucas and Steve met with the Fish and Wildlife rep and discussed kiosk locations. F&W seemed happy with all the locations. Mark signed Lucas's Eagle Scout paperwork mid-Dec. Lucas is putting together a proposal and a budget, perhaps in the range of \$600.

Old Business:

- Signage and Safety. Marc L created two new signs, one at Towle near T4 and the other on Rockstrom near D20. Steve will paint and install them.
- Trail Guide Sales. Sarah. No new sales to report.

- Otter Slide dams. The trail is still flooded, but is now frozen, so users can walk across.
- Review of moonlight walk on Jan 3. The event went well – about 30 people attended, including some who came only for the campfire and the smores. A Mosquito photographer attended. We had some requests to do more winter walks and/or more nighttime walks.
- Annual Town report is due soon. Steve will handle.
- Work Accomplished in the past month. A big December wind storm created a lot of work for the committee. Between Dec 20 and the end of the year, Sarah, Marc, Steve, Warren and Bob all helped clear downed trees at Marion's Trail, Spencer Brook, Rangeway, the Town Forest and Greenough. Particularly notable was a huge multi-trunk white pine tree at the Benfield land that required hours of chainsaw work to clear.

New and Other Business:

Goals for 2026 – High, Medium, Low priority

- **Two Rod Road Part III (H).** Boardwalks are needed at two stream crossings. That will require a wetland filing. Paperwork could get done in the winter and the project in the spring. We also may need to buy six new bumpers as our supply is running low. Plastic is preferred; the brown plastic blends in better than the grey concrete and is lighter. Bumpers are usually sold in pallets, not individually. The plastic ones are somewhat more expensive than the concrete ones.
- **Old Morse Road erosion control (H).** Bob says we can do the ditching in April or May. A length of tree also needs to be cut away. There may be sections where we need to build gravel turnpike; we would have to decide what those are. Working with some of the abutters could help us get access. This would be a large project. The work areas are a combination of conservation restriction, trail easement in the Ember Lane conservation cluster, Town land behind Elizabeth Ridge, and private land.
- **Eagle Scout projects (H)** Continue existing projects.
- **Elliott Trail relocation. (H)** Probably a one-day project now that we have a plan.
- **New Pond View Trail at Greenough (H).** Waiting to see how high the water gets in the spring. Probably not a big project to cut a new trail and put a bench at the end.
- **Figure out our approach to trail guide revision (M).** We still have about 1,000 of the 2018 books left. Adam suggests creating a list of changes since the books were printed; perhaps we could at least update the online maps; Sarah will take this on. Sarah relays that retailers have mentioned the 2018 date on the cover has been a disincentive to buyers. Could cover the 2018 with a sticker that says: updated PDFs available on our website. Would we consider making a gift to families with children

in the school? That's what CCF did when the first books came out. Merritt says he will look into some options for retrofitting the books. Could we pull maps out of Open Street Maps to update our maps?

- **Boardwalk at trail entrance from Aberdeen Drive. (No.)** This easement goes through someone's private property, and they were upset about the bike traffic. A couple of years ago, we attempted to redirect the bike traffic (which is not allowed in the terms of the easement). It could really use a boardwalk, but it's unclear whether the owner would welcome that.
- **Bridge on the Likely Trail to Westford (M).** Ownership of this area is muddled. We need to figure out whose land it is on before we can do something. Steve will pursue.
- **Continue QR codes (L).** Bob and Marc have been working on this and are about a third done. Is it worth continuing? Some feedback from users might be helpful.
- **Trail linkage wish list from OS&R (L).** Needs some research to see which ones make sense and who owns the properties. Sarah and Kath will take a look and make recommendations to see which ones seem most popular; Alan and others can do a gut-check on which might be most feasible. Sarah to make spreadsheet and send to the group.
- **Erosion at end of Barnes Place (L).** Water runs down the road into the trail, eroding the trail. A berm could help guide the water to where it is supposed to go. Not a very large project.
- **Otter Slide recurring flooding (L).** The placement of the dam does not leave a lot of options for ameliorating the problem. Reroute? Bridging? Sadly, the banks are eroding so fast the trail seems to be slipping away – we will probably not be able to maintain it forever. The water flow has also stagnated which is bad for the wildlife that rely on moving water. We will monitor.
- **Accessibility assessment and signage (M).** Some additional community involvement/specific understanding of needs would be helpful. Trails? Parking lots? Wheel chairs? Vision impairment? Talking with the State Park manager might also be helpful. Pat and Mark may follow up.
- **Russell Conservation Land entrance visibility. (L)** Brush makes steps somewhat blind; cars may not be able to see walkers near the road. Marc to follow up.
- **Several boardwalk potential projects (L).** Bartlett muddy spot; Carlisle Pines; Conant Land; Piggery Road; River Trail; Rockstrom Land; more. Marc has a list.

Other business:

Trails committee comcast email is problematic. Possibly could switch to MailChimp. We voted to authorize Alan to spend up to \$200 on a MailChimp account to help Carlisle Trails Committee contact our mailing list.

Additional signage needed at Cranberry Bog? ConsCom is dealing with it.

Future activities planning. Annual dessert party will be Feb 1.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 4, 2026.

Volunteer hours – none to report.

Meeting adjourned: 8:32 PM.