

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: March 3, 2023  
Minutes Approved: April 7, 2023  
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Members Present: Alan Ankers, Roy Herold, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin

Members Absent: Chris Chiapella, Charlene Hinton,

Guests:

Bert and Sylvia Willard, 34 Bellows Hill Rd.

Bob Goldsmith, 771 Lowell Rd.

Joan Laxson, 5 Thornton Lane, Concord

Jane Anderson, 433 Baldwin Rd.

Chris Roberson, *Carlisle Mosquito*

Meeting was held via video conference.

The meeting was opened by Chair Steve Tobin at 7:34 PM.

**Documents Presented:**

None

**Old Business:**

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the February 3 meeting were approved as written.

**Bills:**

None.

**2023 Goals:**

**Goals – General:**

Steve noted that in previous years, a lead person had been assigned to each designated goal, and we should consider doing the same this year.

**Malcolm Meadows Wet Areas:**

Further investigation is required.

**Online Mapping:**

Marc reported that he put up QR code strips on the Rangeway trail as a preliminary trial. The small plastic strips were stapled to sign posts and had the three codes with links to the parcel trail map, Open Street maps, and the Trails Committee website. Roy noted that these materials have held up well and resisted weathering when he has used them for garden projects. The rest of the Committee had a favorable reaction.

Warren suggested adding a fourth code to “report a problem” directed to the Trails Committee email address; all agreed this was a good idea.

Marc will proceed with a larger installation in the Town Forest, perhaps incorporating some alternative materials, such as thicker, laminated strips.

### **Other Old Business:**

#### **Banta-Davis Dog Park:**

Steve joined the Planning Board meeting on February 13; they are currently going through the site review process. He noted that the plan shows the dog park area very close to the “approximate” lot line, which raises concerns if we wish to run a trail between the lot line and the dog park. Steve will attend the site walk on March 7.

#### **Earth Day Event:**

Alan reported that David Freedman had agreed to create a large format map showing the town-wide trail network, based on the map in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Sylvia offered to have it printed at Town Hall. Alan suggested that the booth could also draw attention to the Trekker Award, perhaps using a QR code linking to the Trekker page on the web site, since the Environmental Sustainability Committee would like to minimize the use of paper. It could also show samples of Marc’s new signpost QR codes. Marc offered to join Chris, who had agreed to staff the booth.

#### **Tiger Scout Project:**

Steve volunteered to work with Danielle Mahan and her Tiger Scout group on a clean-up project on April 30.

#### **Annual Report:**

Steve had sent out a draft for comment, and received a few comments on minor typos. He will make the corrections and send the report to the Select Board.

#### **Twin Peaks Bridge:**

Steve reported that the failing log bridge could possibly be replaced with a single span boardwalk, 14 feet long without needing bumpers, and perhaps be narrower than the usual 4-foot width. He noted that a duckboard would probably be required at another location at the opposite end of the pool. In addition, a boardwalk was required on Marion’s Trail close to the northern end of the trail at West Street. These are all on CCF-owned land.

Warren agreed to prepare the Wetlands filing for submission to ConsCom.

A site visit to review the conditions will be scheduled after the snow is gone.

#### **Spalding-Banta Bridge**

Steve reported that RecComm had been under the impression that the Trails Committee was willing to replace all of the deck boards; he had told them that was not the case. Trails Committee members had carried out some emergency repairs and he had told RecComm that all of the boards would likely need replacing soon, but had not offered to do that work, which would be a huge undertaking.

### **New Business:**

### **Curve Street Bridge Work**

Alan attended a meeting on March 1 with Town Planner Julie Mercier, Town Administrator Ryan McLane, and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard, to review plans for proposed work to extend the guardrails at the bridge on Curve Street. They were hoping to proceed with the project this summer and were checking whether the Trails Committee had concerns. The new guardrail would block the entrance to the Otter Slide trail, and the approved plans included rerouting the trail for about 50 feet parallel to the road before passing through the guardrail. Because of the slope away from the road, some regrading work would be required, and the plans showed an appropriate detail for this.

Marc noted that having the trail run directly alongside the road could be a problem when snow is plowed to the side of the road. It seems like this could be solved by cutting across to the existing trail at an angle, without significantly changing the scope of the work. Alan will contact Julie to ask for this change.

### **Estabrook Trail in Concord:**

Steve noted that the Committee had recently heard of concerns about removal of boulders from the Estabrook trail in Concord. A lawsuit by the Town of Concord against the local landowners had confirmed the public right of access to the trail. One owner had removed boulders by tractor, leaving large holes, apparently pursuing his right to “improve the road,” but had been told to stop by the Concord Natural Resources Commission. Since this is in Concord, it is outside of the Trails Committee’s jurisdiction.

### **Future Activity Planning:**

No activities were planned for March.

Steve asked about a vernal pool walk. Alan will contact Bryan Windmiller to try and arrange one.

### **Recent Trail Work:**

Steve cleared a tree from Foss South Field.

Marc cleared a large tree in the Town Forest.

Bob Goldsmith cleared small trees from Heartbreak Ridge.

### **Schedule Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was scheduled for April 7, 2023 at 7:30 pm, to be held by video conference if still permitted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.