

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2020
Alan Ankers, Secretary

Attendance: Alan Ankers, Henry Cox, Roy Herold, Marc Lamere, Warren Spence, Steve Tobin, Jonathan DeKock

Guests: Sylvia Willard, Bert Willard, Ted Selig, Jim Gettys, Helen Lyons (*Carlisle Mosquito*), Judy Asarkof, Bob Goldsmith

Meeting was held via video conference.

Documents Presented:

Email from Jeannie Geneczko (attached).

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the April 17 meeting were approved as amended.

Materials Purchase:

Marc reported that the lumber purchased for duckboards had cost \$528.96, but that the previous approval of expenditure did not specify which account should be used.

A motion was approved to pay this from the Trails Grant Account.

Trails Day:

Marc reported that Carlisle Trails Day will now be spread over the full month of June, with the expectation that walks will be done by individuals or families rather than larger groups. The web site is now ready, and committee members were encouraged to sign up for walks.

Committee Membership:

With Louise Hara stepping down, a new member is required. Jonathan noted that he would be happy to remain as an associate member if another new member could be found. Alan will draft a notice to send to the email list and the Mosquito.

Russell Street Trails:

Bill Brady had emailed the committee asking when the route across the field would be flagged, as he would like to help with mowing it. Marc will contact Bill to work out the details.

Woodward Village Trails:

Steve reported that he had joined the (virtual) preconstruction meeting on May 1. The transfer of land ownership is tied to issue of the first building permit, which is expected to be around the end of this year. The site will not be ready for trail work until the earthwork has been completed, also expected to be around the end of the year.

USF&WS Agreement:

Marc reported that he has not yet been able to meet with the new refuge manager, Linh Phu, but will continue trying to arrange a meeting. He has drafted a list of topics for discussion as part of the new agreement.

New Business:**Scout Projects:**

Ted Selig reported that a few scouts are interested in doing trail work as Community Service projects with Social Distancing. The committee agreed that trail clearing would be a good way to do this, using the trail clearing guide on the web site for reference. Alan will coordinate with Ted, using the online list of trails requiring clearing.

New Trails:

Ted Selig also enquired about the process for a new trail. He is interested in a trail to link Bisbee and Estabrook. Marc agreed to work him in scouting and researching the possibilities.

USF&WS Hunting:

Marc reported that the USF&WS had issued a “Draft Proposal to Expand Hunting Opportunities” in National Wildlife Refuges which was currently open for public input. This would add Coyote, Bear and Turkey to the list of species permitted to be hunted by archery in the Carlisle section of Great Meadows NWR.

Marc presented an email submitted by Jeannie Geneczko, who had requested that it be read as public input to this meeting, outlining her opposition to the proposal.

Jonathan noted that the town’s Deer Committee would not be commenting since their jurisdiction was for deer hunting on town lands, and this concerned neither of those.

The committee discussed whether this would affect Carlisle trail users. Judy and Sylvia both raised safety concerns related to the hunting of bear and coyote, noting that those animals, if wounded, would be more dangerous than deer. The committee agreed that these were valid concerns, and also had questions related to regulations such as setbacks from trails, and whether hunting had to be from tree stands. USF&WS regulations appear to provide less protection to other trail users than the town’s recently implemented regulations. The consensus was that the increased hunting opportunities could diminish the opportunities for other recreation use of the trails. The committee also felt that the signage should be improved to be made clearer and more easily readable.

Marc will send a document to USF&WS and copy the Selectmen. Alan will provide an initial draft based on notes used to prepare these minutes. This will also be part of the discussion with the new refuge manager, which may not occur until after the public input period.

Alan will reply to Jeannie Geneczko’s two specific questions, that the item was on the agenda to discuss whether it would have any effect on Carlisle’s trail users, and whether we should provide input to USF&WS; and that the Committee has no stated position for or against hunting, but is interested in protecting the safety of trail users.

Trekker Award Patches:

Marc reported that he had a quote from Stadri Emblems for \$147.49 for 50 patches, or \$153.99 for 100. A motion was approved to purchase 100 patches, with funds to be taken from the Trails Gift Account.

Recent Trail Work:

Marc replaced broken boards on the Tobin Bridge and the Beaver Trail boardwalk.

Steve installed duckboard sections near the start of the cart path at the Benfield Conservation Land, and another four on the Woodhaven Trail.

Steve cleared a large tree from the Spencer Brook.

Roy cleared two trees at the Woodward land.

Warren cleared trees at Hart Farm, the Town Forest and MacAfee trail.

Henry cleared a tree from the Blueberry trail.

Jonathan cleared a fallen tree at the Greenough parking lot.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for June 5, again to be held by video conference.

Carlisle Trails Committee

From: Jeannie Geneczko <jeanniegen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:31 PM
To: carlisletrails@comcast.net
Cc: Steve Tobin; Jonathan DeKock
Subject: Review of USF&WS NWR "Draft Proposal to Expand Hunting Opportunities"
Attachments: Federal government seeks more hunting in wildlife refuges - Harvard Press.pdf

Dear Trails Committee,

I have a conflict with another meeting tonight so I cannot attend the Trails Committee meeting.

Therefore, I am submitting this email with Attachment as Public Input into the 5/8/20 meeting. I ask that you read it as Public Input tonight and include it in the Meeting Minutes.

The purpose is to relate my concern about the Carlisle Trails Committee Agenda item under New Business:

- Review of USF&WS NWR "Draft Proposal to Expand Hunting Opportunities"

I believe this refers to a Proposed Rule document issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under Docket Number FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013-0001. <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013> In its Summary, the FWS states, "We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose to open, **for the first time, eight National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) that are currently closed to hunting and sport fishing.** In addition, we **propose to open or expand hunting and sport fishing at 89 other NWRs...**" (BOLD is mine.)

This has a tremendous environmental and conservation impact on 97 NWRs.

This change expands recreational hunting to another 2.3 million acres within the NWRs and fish hatcheries according to a press release by the Department of the Interior dated April 8. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is quoted as saying, "America's hunters and anglers now have something significant to look forward to in the fall." (Reference: "Federal government seeks more hunting in wildlife refuges" by Marty Green of the Harvard Press, 4/23/20. Reference attached.)

There is no pretense that the new or expanded hunting is for anything but recreational activities.

This Docket includes eastern MA refuges under the following proposed "**Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex *Hunting Plan.***"

https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/ASR_OXB_GRM_Hunt%20Plan%20CD%20and%20EA_March2020.pdf

A brief summary of the Eastern MA Hunting plan for expansion of hunting on the federal land includes Great Meadows and can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=6442462321> Recreational hunting in Great Meadows would be expanded there 778 additional acres.

Again, there is no pretense that the new or expanded hunting is for anything but recreation.

The Eastern MA hunting plan is integrated into the entire United States plan and seem inseparable. If the federal plan is approved, the Eastern MA plan is approved.

The only reason I can see this being an Agenda Item for the Trails Committee is that this will affect the Carlisle trails. Is that so?

My position, as you may be aware, is that I am opposed to the expansion of hunting locally or nationally.

My other question is: How does the Trails Committee feel about recreational hunting on protected lands? Do you have a stated position?

Please advise on both questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Geneczko

898 Maple Street