

Annual Report for 2002 Carlisle Trails Committee

The Trails Committee kept busy in 2002 with its five major activities: 1) public education, 2) maintaining existing trails on public land, 3) working to preserve trails on private land being developed, 4) creating trails on new public land, and 5) advising the Selectmen on trails issues.

Public education –The committee led five public walks to familiarize townspeople with the trail network. Our first attempt at a night walk attracted 60 adventurous souls to Foss Farm in January. We cosponsored a vernal pool walk with the Conservation Commission on Earth Day at the Conant Land. As part of the inter-community Riverfest celebration on June 1, a group of walkers explored the River Trail. An October walk down Two Rod Road to the Circle Trail in Estabrook Woods was well-attended on a beautiful day. The annual after-Thanksgiving walk attracted about 50 hikers to the River Trail from Foss Farm to the Greenough Land and back.

The Trails in Carlisle map book was reprinted in the amount of 250 copies to supply the steady demand at the Town Clerk's office and at Old Home Day. A new identify-the-trail photo contest at the committee's Old Home Day booth was very popular. It was picked up by the *Mosquito* in print and electronic versions. The knowledgeable winners were Claire Wilcox and Anne Ketchen.

Trail maintenance – The committee chose improved trail signage as its major focus for the year. About 50 wooden signs were carved by volunteer craftsman Hal Shneider and painted and installed by members of the Trails Committee. Parcels of land where it is now more difficult to get lost include Towle, Greenough, Davis Corridor, and the Rockstrom Land. Signs advising dog owners to clean up after their pets were also installed at the Cranberry Bog.

Committee members and many other volunteers participated in trail clearings throughout the year. Parcels of land included Greenough, O'Rourke/Great Meadows, Davis Corridor, Sachs Greenway, Rockstrom, Towle, and Foss Farm. Work crews typically went out from 9:00 to 11:30 on Saturday or Sunday mornings. The Committee also assisted the Conservation Commission in rebuilding the split rail fence around the Foss Farm parking lot.

Preserving trails – The trail from Woodridge Road to the Poole Swamp trail was relocated for the Carlisle Conservation Foundation to conform to a new easement donated by abutters.

Creating new trails on public land – A new trail was cleared on Town land in the Hart development off Curve Street, connecting Hart Farm Road to the Old Morse Road trail.

The Committee is always trying to find better ways to interest the public in our activities. Notices are placed in the *Mosquito* for public walks and work days. We have an e-mail system to notify volunteers of trail clearing and bridge building days, public walks, and monthly meetings. The e-mail contact is Verna_Gilbert@hotmail.com.

The Trails Committee would especially like to thank the many volunteers from the community who have helped in our trail projects through the year. We also wish to acknowledge the unnamed volunteers who quietly maintain trails in their neighborhoods without direct involvement of the Trails Committee. Without volunteers, the Town wouldn't have its wonderful trail system.

Retiring committee member Jack Innella will be sorely missed for his colorful personality and success in recruiting volunteers. Current members of the Trails Committee are Bob Eaton, George Fardy, Verna Gilbert (secretary), Louise Hara (vice-chair), Janet Hentschel, Steve Tobin (chair), and Bert Willard. Report submitted by Steve Tobin.