

Carlisle Trails Committee
Report of August 6, 2010 Meeting
Louise Hara, substitute Secretary

Attendance: Henry Cox, George Fardy, Louise Hara, Marc Lamere, Kevin Smith, Steve Tobin.

Guests: Steve Hinton, Greg Peterson, Alan Ankers, Stew Roberts, Doug Harris, Muckquashim, Anne Marie Brako, Betsy Fell.

Documents Discussed in Agenda:

Submission documents for Spencer Brook boardwalk NOI

Old Business:

Minutes from July 2 meeting:

Steve Tobin requested some spelling changes for names. They were corrected and minutes approved unanimously.

Spencer Brook Boardwalk:

Steve Hinton presented sketches and documents being prepared for the Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission Hearing in September with map and sketches of proposed location for a 100' boardwalk and viewing platform on the Spencer Brook.

The purpose of the meeting was to get design feedback from trails and complete the filing by the 20th and appear at the first meeting in Sept. It is hoped to get the auger work done in November.

Two issues, handrails and height of the viewing platform were discussed. The start of platform is planned at the tree line and is to rise to go to high flood level as it extends over the wetland. The platform is to be above the vegetation level but to be as least intrusive as possible. The best height and framing were presented and Committee members and guests discussed this at length.

Code: Ralph Jensen, code consultant for Stewart Roberts, did not think that the boardwalk needed to follow universal design regulations for handicap code or railing design. Alan Ankers described the handrail code issue if commercial or residential. He also could not find the application of codes to this project. The closest building type to the boardwalk is docks and loading docks. Code prescribes the heights and openings, if applicable, but, it seems that this is not necessary as this building type is closest to a dock and is not mentioned as a building type.

Greg Peterson expressed the hope that this will be phase one of a much longer crossing. It should be a place to bring school groups for education. Other populations using this boardwalk may be the seniors in the housing. He reiterated that we should be making as safe an environment as possible in light of the purpose and intent as a place for nature observation.

Further measurements are needed but it was generally decided that the deck should be about 4 1/2 to 5 feet above the brush level of the wetland. The deck is to be approx 30" inches or so above the ice level of last winter. (Or 5' above the ground level .) This requires an elevation change of approx 2 to 3 feet over the 100 ft of ramp. The slope would then be less than 1 to 20 which does not require the handicap railings on any ramp. There would be room for a level platform midway to the viewing platform.

Railings will be steel cable, 3 strands through pipe, on the sides of the walkway and benches will be located at the shoulders of the platform. There will be a kick plate throughout, with 4x4s on 2x4 blocks for feet, bolted through to the deck.

Framing is to be flush framed using anchors that have a hanging tab to tie into the top of support joists, to add security for metal corrosion into the pressure treated wood. Start location of ramp TBD in another site visit. Question to be determined is the use of a dirt ramp or wooden ramp to start the boardwalk.

Doug Harris(Naraganset tribal spokesperson), Tim Fohl(Land Steward) and Muckquashim expressed a desire to visit the site with other tribal Naraganset and Wampanog in last week of August. Kevin is to set up the walk with the tribal group.

Bike Racks:

Anne Marie Brako reported that the State is offering free bike racks and Anne Marie is willing to take the proposal forward. She requests support from the Trails Committee in applying for the bike racks in the form of a letter of support and selection of locations where the racks should be placed. We named several locations and agreed to write a letter. The committee also expressed that we had discussed the racks at an earlier meeting, but had decided that the placement of permanent objects in parking areas should be left to the Conservation Commission or the Land Stewards and DPW as they have town authority over the land. The cranberry bog, Greenough, Foss, Towle, Malcolm Meadows and Town Forest were selected as good starting locations. All felt that the of end of Estabrook Road would be a good location except that the town had no parking area other than the road and that it should not be located along a private landowner's land. Anne Marie requested that bike racks be located in the next editions of the Trail guide.

Anne Marie also encouraged the trails committee to sponsor a Biathlon or walk and bike to get people out and using the trails and roads.

Banta-Davis boardwalk: Discussion of the Rec Com proposal is postponed to the next meeting.

Web Site Update: Kevin will put David's maps and some brief information on parking, acreage, and access on the web.

New Trail Work: Posts to put in ground at Benfield Sunday 15th. Three on the road and one back in corner to Acton. The old campsite will be cleaned. 9am start on West Street near Twin Peaks.

Henry turned in \$30 to Louise to deposit for book sales.

Schedule next meeting:

The next meeting was set for Friday, September 10, 2010.