

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2012

Present: Henry Cox, Marc Lamere, Steve Tobin , George Fardy, Kevin Smith, Sylvia Willard, Alan French, and Louise Hara. Bert Willard was not present.

Minutes from January 6th were approved with two changes: “Marjorie” name spelling correction and “Louise will order a stainless steel plaque”.

Plaque progress: The Rock is in place, the plaque base plate is still not ordered.

Eagle scout project: Marc reported that Anthony Perugini has two broken legs in two places from a ski accident which occurred on a boy scout trip. The trail he was working on is complete and needs markers. Three board walks are being planned for a future Trails Committee project in Chestnut Estates..

Foss Farm Trail update: Henry reported discussion with Mr. Campagna. He has requested that we start work on the trail. It needs to be flagged and marked. We will meet Sunday afternoon at 1pm at the Foss parking lot. The bridge to nowhere will be reviewed again. Henry will contact Mr. Campagna.

Bay Circuit Trail: Alan French joined the meeting and informed us of new developments for the Alliance. The future management of the Bay Circuit has been accepted by Trustees of Reservations and Appalachian Mountain Club. Both organizations will have new heads and there is an anticipated change in governance for the trail. The Directorate with regional reps is expected to continue. Under discussion is the concept of the green belt and the concept of the actual trail envisioned by Olmstead. Questions raised that will affect us include “Is the 8 miles of bike trail the only core? Or can we make alternates.”

New owners will decide whether the “brand” will be compromised if there are alternates. Alan is part of “the Team” dedicated to creation of alternate routes. Danny_____ is in opposition to having alternate trails so we might not need to create a trail. Regardless Alan would like to walk the trail with us in the spring.

Steve asked what is required? Alan’s answer is that the trail “be a Open and dedicated trail and marked.” It could be for one year or for deeded perpetuity. The only requirement is that it has to be in writing. They would like to have a local organization in charge, but it is not necessary. Carlisle Trails is a logical conduit.

Steve showed Alan two routes that he has outlined on maps.

Alan says that the final option is up to us. He stated that, once underway, the momentum can lead to changes in the trail.

Bay Circuit needs to be voted by the Conservation Commission and needs to be marked. Standardization is necessary but make exceptions for places such as historic districts, grave yards or other types of property that require different markings.

The process for town roads would require approval by the Selectmen. Advice that Alan imparted on us is that local option works. It is often best to count on relationships within the town and follow local procedures. Telephone poles are not commonly accepted by the

utility for marking the trails so don't ask to put up blazes on telephone poles. It is often done and accepted in certain towns. Each town is different.

For general incorporation of the trail into the town, Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission and any other open space entity of the town should be asked. The State will be on board since the DCR is part of the start of the project and managed it when it was DCM. They sponsored the bottom up solution for making the alliance. So we should talk to Steve Carlin and call either Denny or Alan to accompany on a visit with the state park. Alan has a letter from the State regions and has approval for the organization of the trail. The State has been helpful with land protection. An example is in Halifax where the cranberry bogs are now a wildlife refuge ... White Cedar Swamp.

Alan would like to come back with his understudy from the AMC and walk with us in the spring.

OPDMD: Kevin reported that the document has undergone some major rewriting into a regulation rather than a policy so that it is enforceable. The document only deals with town owned conservation lands. The committee has decided to continue requiring a permit for gasoline powered vehicles for service trails as has been the practice for all mowers and other vehicles in the past.

Steve shared some of his edits which include: "Other Power Driven" And questioning whether the narrow single track trail vs. wide track should be differentiated for horse exclusion. Our policy has been to allow horses on all trails except those few that are not allowed such as at Great Meadows and Sachs Greenway. In its current wording, it could limit horse riding on narrow track trails.

Kevin will take it back to his committee to discuss this wording. The document will also want to go to the Stewards again before going to vote by other committees.

Steve also noted that on the list of trails, Spencer Brook should be Benfield .

Blood farm is not a service trail ... only near the Catbriar east junction. A discussion ensued on the fact that many of our trails which are wide enough in some parts to be a double track trail become narrow in other areas and are seldom consistent. Should these be wide single track trails? Also questioned was the Cross Over Trail.

Morse Road is not town conservation land is open space instead and should not be on the list. Another question is the inclusion of Municipal Land.

Fines: A = \$50 and B = \$100 Sylvia explained that there were State maximums on the fines.

Sylvia suggested that harvest equipment and maintenance vehicles have priority.

Kevin will go back to the working group and come back to us.

CCF liked the previous version.

Full Moon Walk Jan 7th: 77 people attended. A big surprise.

Dessert party: Was delicious

Trail work: 1 tree still down on Piggery. Beavers have taken over. Or Steve has been at work with some strong teeth.

Trails needing protection: Steve presented a list of what needs to be done. (If we are not building boardwalks) The list includes trail connections that are wanted. Take home and review and come back to next meeting with suggestions and ranking order. These include Morse Road, West border with Acton including connection at Ben's Woods, Bartlett Farm, Flannery, Kimballs to Cutter Ridge, Benfield area and Spencer Brook connections, Carlisle Pines to McAfee, Wendy Davis-Tophet East Loop, Woodward-Beaver Trail, Blood Farm to Stoney Gate, and Rangeway to Nickles Lane.

Spring Boardwalk Projects : Henry reported that Sally has requested an improvement in a small crossing on the Blueberry trail. Currently there are some rotted logs. A small section is needed. A replacement board will be put in.

Joint meeting of Land Groups : Steve gave a brief report on the meeting held this week. Each group gave a short review of work in progress. John Gorecki came from the selectmen with a person who wants to start a CSA and a woodworking business in the Greenough Barn. The Greenough barn in turn is looking for a committee to organize needed repairs for a new tenant to undertake. Warren Lyman, Alan Ankers and several others volunteered.

John Gorecki is also looking for projects for his eagle scouts sons. Looking for shovel ready projects. Chestnut Estates projects were suggested.

Annual report: Steve is working on it.

Elliott property: CPA funding will be requested at town meeting. CCF would like help with leading walks for 2 weeks before the town meeting April 22 and 28th.

Kevin is heading south after our next meeting and coming back in May.

Town Forest: Kevin has been approached by some residents to add a section to some dead end trails in the Town Forest. We discussed the poison ivy issue in that area and agreed to walk it in the spring, once the foliage was out.

Next meeting March 2, 2012