

Carlisle Trails Committee Meeting Minutes**March 2, 2012**

Present: Henry Cox, Kevin Smith, Marc Lamere, Steve Tobin, George Fardy, Alan Ankers, Anne Marie from the Mosquito

Minutes from February 3rd were amended and approved with corrections.

Bridge to nowhere: Alan Ankers joined the meeting to report on structural estimates that he had done for the bridge structure. “Not easy...”

There are three options and he looked at two. The first is a bridge in the location of the exiting structure. There is approximately 40 feet of wetland where foundation will be the issue. Options for this would include 4 to 8 helical piers with longer spans in between. Maybe use 4x12s for 18 foot span on 4 helical piers could make the crossing.

The rest could be on concrete bumpers as in the standard design. This is the shortest supported structure route and the most direct into the field.

The tread surface should be made of 3x8s to allow for horses to be supported and would give more stability to the entire structure. More investigation will be done to find out what the actual cost of this solution will be in order to compare it to the second and third option.

The other possibility is the long version through the woods and then bending up the hill. This would require cutting of a number of smaller trees to make space that is wide enough to accommodate the boardwalk. It would also double the length of the walkway surface. A rough estimate is 200+ feet and may be more if the trail from the parking area to the stream crossing is wet. There are ferns and skunk cabbage growing in the current location. The benefit of this location is that all the standard details can be used.

Marc suggested a third option. The space directly adjacent to the road could be the most accessible. Louise and Steve reported having studied this for several years, but concluded that it is too close to the road, gets snow and sand debris from snow removal and is on a difficult slope in parts of the spaces where the trail would be built. Marc will investigate this option further.

Handrails would be needed for any of the walkways to visually aid the horses across the bridge. Alan drew a detail using 4x4s at intervals and having 2x4 cap and side rail. These would be built more as visual guides for horses in going over the boardwalk. It would need to be strong enough to support adults and children leaning on them.

We should also consult with Cons Com to see if they would be willing to look at a longer boardwalk with more surface area coverage than the more costly shorter route, before investing too much work into the construction details.

It was agreed that we need to visit the site again for more measurements, and that each of the options should be developed further before decisions are made.

Benfield Plaque: The support is not yet ordered.

Eagle projects: A list of projects is needed for future Eagle projects. Chestnut estates could provide several of those projects between the boardwalks and the trail planning on the Mannis land and clearing to complete the trail.

Foss Farm new trail: Marc reported that the eagle scout is eager to do the project. Matt Goreki, an 8th grader will do the Foss project in the spring. He will be talking to land stewards, cons com and us for approval and coordinating the work. He will also need to coordinate with Carlisle Police with our assistance for the crossing at Rt.225.

OPDMD Other Power Driven Mobility Devices

The OPDMD committee made changes suggested at the last trails meeting and other committees have signed off on those changes. Kevin moved that “trails committee support the regulation on OPDMD and recommend that it be adopted by the conservation commission.” Second by Louise Hara and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Board of Health application for State Wellness Grant: Louise read the portions of a grant application filed by the board of Health that pertain to trails committee, Carlisle, OPDMD, ADA and OS&R. Funding would be provided for a consultant to help identify trails and recommend changes to some so they fit the accessible standards. This work will benefit the sections in the OS&R report. There will also be the opportunity to work on linkages with other towns.

Trails:

Blueberry Trail repair is done. Henry, Erin and Matt did it. On the same trail, the windstorm brought down a big pine which needs to be cut.

Kevin reported a red pine down in the cathedral.

Steve and Louise saw a large oak on the Holmes Avery land next to the stone wall at the end of the trail. There is also a large tree at the tall pines section near the large hemlocks. It is broken 25 feet up and goes directly over the path. Steve Carlin should be notified. There were also trees spotted across the path on the Estabrook walk.

New business :

Spring projects: were discussed, but none fully decided.. The spring work will include the Chestnut Estates trail and define the Mannis Land.

Gage woodlot: Louise reported on meeting with Steve Carlin. The state is putting in a new trail to connect to the Fern loop along the edge of the stonewall off of the parking area where they took down a building and tower. They would like to work with the Trails Committee to build a trail on the Gage lot. Steve Tobin expressed concerns that we do not have the boundaries marked.

Bay Circuit: Kevin found the Carlisle trail defined on Bay Circuit maps on line. It looks like the map has been there for some time. We should get a commitment from Concord,

the State, Harvard, Cons Com and neighbors before deciding on the route. Lacking volunteer time, it was decided to hold off on committing to this project for this year.

Trail protections: Steve requested that we further develop a list of trail connections that are needed in the system. He would like us to prioritize them. They will be used by us as well as CCF to prioritize projects. It will also be reported in the OS&R report.

Some are new such as connecting the Benfield lands to the Spencer Brook to make a circuit and establishing connections along the West boarder near Acton.

We are asked to prioritize the list and add others that we see and group them in three levels of importance.

The connections include furthering connections into Estabrook woods: Bartlett Farm and Flannery, Morse Road protections, Bates Farm, Rangeway, and others. Steve will email the list as a starting point to all members.

OS&R : Louise reported that she will be sending out copies of our section of the 2005 OS&R report and our 5 year plan. Many of our initiatives have ben completed and others need to be decided. Steve's list goes a long way in the land planning area. Other goals are to be noted as well. This is to be discussed at our next meeting.

Mosquito question on Round-up use:

Anne Marie for the Mosquito questioned the committee on the use of roundup. She relayed discussion from board of health where experts on water quality saw no issue with the spraying of round up in the farmed fields at Foss directly adjacent to the gardens and the new well. As trails Committee was mentioned in the meeting, she came to solicit our views on the use of Round-up on trails. Louise relayed that the committee did not use chemicals on trails or on any of its lands that it works on. In order to apply Round-up, you need to be a licensed applicator and we do not have one our team. Furthermore, it has been the policy of the Conservation Commission to not use chemicals on lands that it manages. We have followed those parameters in doing our work. (That is not to say that we do not wish the poison ivy on many of our trails were gone.)

Next Meeting:

Many members will not be available on the next first Friday of April. It was decided that we would have a meeting on Thursday April 5th.