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A New Bridge for the Weeks Forest Carriage Trail

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If you have taken a stroll on the Carriage Trail in Weeks Forest during the past several weeks, you probably noticed a new bridge that crosses a stream on the path not far from the Trail entrance. That stream had been wearing away the path, which made walking across the gully a bit difficult.

Maintaining the Carriage Trail is one of the responsibilities of the Guilford Conservation Commission. Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Conservation Commissioners Steve Soszynski, Dave Eastman, and Bevan Quinn, along with Steve's son Andy, the new bridge now makes the Trail safer and guarantees that any

further erosion of the path will not interfere with the use of the Trail.



Building the bridge was an adventure, and an example of how Guilford pulls together to get the job done. Several volunteers offered donations. Ned Childs had some black locust blowdown on his property that he cut and pulled out of the woods. He donated several logs for the bridge frame. Conservation Commissioner Bill Jewell donated wood for the bridge railing. Steve Soszynski bought the hemlock decking from Hamilton Lumber. Mike Tkaczyk and Dan Cheslawski from MT3 helped with getting the heavy locust beams to the site and bringing in material.



First the locust beams had to be milled, and hardware bought for assembling the structure. Dave and Steve assembled the bridge at Steve's house with Bevan's help (see photo). Thinking ahead, they built it on a large trailer so that Steve could bring the bridge to the trail! Steve, Andy, and Bevan assembled the bridge parts on site (see photo) after the supporting beams were placed by MT3.

An attractive, rustic, functional bridge now graces the Carriage Trail (see photo) and the town thanks all the volunteers for their donations of time, materials, money, and effort to get the job done.

Be sure to visit the Trail and check out the new bridge soon!

*Top: Dave and Bevan working on the bridge at Steve's house
Bottom: Bevan and Andy assembling the bridge
(Photos courtesy of Steve Soszynski)*