

Carlisle Conservation Commission

Minutes
4/12/12
revised 4/30/12

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:37 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino, Lee Tatistcheff and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present.

7:37 – 7:45 PM Bills, General Agenda Items, and New/Pending or Old Business

Land Use Permit: Jelich Farms of Lexington – Willard reported that Jelich Farms has requested to use the riding stable at Foss Farm on Sunday April 13 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Jelich Farms expects about 20 people and has submitted a Certificate of Liability Insurance. After discussion, Guarino moved to issue a permit, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

Land Use Permit: Matthew Gorecki, Eagle Scout project for Foss Farm trail installation – Willard and the Foss Farm Land Stewards are scheduled to meet Matthew Gorecki at Foss Farm on April 25 at 3:30 PM to discuss a proposed trail installation. Gorecki will be out of the country during the week starting April 15, and will not be able to attend the Land Stewardship Committee meeting on April 17 for their discussion of the proposed trail.

Elliott Acquisition Update – Burn attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 10 for the discussion. Steve Tobin and Greg Peterson were present on behalf of Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF). The main concern was obtaining a grant from the state to cover part of the acquisition. Even if a state grant is forthcoming, it would not be obtained until after Town acquisition, so that some Town funds might have to be allocated and then be reimbursed. The Selectmen did not vote on a course of action. Willard reported that she has been working on a second draft of the Conservation Restriction, which will be held by the Town when acquired. Willard, Lynn Knight (CCF) and Christa Collins (Sudbury Valley Trustees) visited the property with an appraiser. Willard noted that it is probably the only publicly owned site in Carlisle, except for the Greenough Land, with public access to the Concord River.

7:45 – 8:00 PM Land Use Permit: Joan Allen for materials collection

Allen is a landscape painter, and makes her own paper using mulberry and banana, and was accompanied by her friend Elisabeth Carpenter. Allen incorporates small amounts of other materials into the paper pulp, e.g. beaver fur and cattail down. She requested permission to gather natural materials from conservation lands. After discussion, the commission decided that since the quantities of natural material were very small, there would be no impact on conservation land. Tatistcheff moved to approve a Land Use Permit for materials collection, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor. Willard took photographs of paintings that Allen showed the commission in order to retain a record.

8:00 – 8:15 PM Request for Determination; Applicant: Basil Bourque; Project Location: 118 Hutchins Road; Project Description: Removal of trees leaning toward the home.

Bourque would like to remove three trees that are leaning towards his house. The work would occur within the 100 ft. of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and in Conservation Restriction Area B according to the CR #33 documentation. The wetlands were not delineated for the application. According to Bush, the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee determined that the proposed work is consistent with the terms of the Conservation Restriction. Bourque explained that the trees will be removed using a crane, and in a “minimally invasive manner”. The cuttings would be removed to the edge of the driveway and the stumps left in the ground. Brown moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, citing criterion B3, with the special condition that this does not imply the acceptance of the wetland delineation shown on the plan submitted, dated 1997. Ascolillo seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

8:15 – 9:00 PM General Agenda Items, and New/Pending or Old Business, continued

Minutes of 2/09/12 – After discussion, Brown moved to accept the minutes as revised, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor except Tatistscheff, who abstained.

Massachusetts Land Trust Alliance Meeting – Guarino attended the meeting and gave a brief report. Guarino attended a talk by a man who was successful in getting inner city children outdoors and experiencing “green space”. She thought the commission should think about ways of exposing children to the outdoors on our conservation lands. There was another talk on forest stewardship; Willard recommended the book “Reclaiming the Commons” by Brian Donohue. Willard noted that Donohue had given a presentation in Carlisle several years ago. Subsequently, Willard and several ConsCom members visited Lands Sake Farm in Weston, hosted by Donohue. Burn and Willard said that forest management would probably be a good idea for certain conservation lands such as the pine plantations at Greenough and Town Forest. However, certain people (often abutters) are opposed to thinning trees.

Towle Poison Ivy Removal Proposal – Willard had forwarded a proposal sent by Helaine Hughes of Poison Ivy Removal Company (Wilton, NH) to Steve Tobin of CCF describing a method to remove poison ivy from Towle Field. This method would involve cutting strips in the soil and hand-pulling the roots; no herbicides would be used. This method was used around Carlisle Village Court several years ago and was claimed to be effective. After discussing the proposal, the commission felt that the cost to treat Towle Field would be very expensive, based upon the estimate given for the area around the parking lot and path leading to the field. Guarino suggested that Willard compose a letter to Hughes thanking her for her proposal, but indicating that the commission did not have the funds to undertake this project.

Emergency Certificate: Gleason Public Library – Over the weekend of March 31, 2012 Willard issued an Emergency Certificate to the Gleason Public Library as repair work for a blocked sewer line was required within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. It was clear that a portion of a seasonal stream would need to be excavated to fix the problem. Further investigatory work will be required in the future in order for the library to determine the extent of their septic system

problem. Library Trustee Priscilla Stevens and Library Director Angela Mollet were present to describe a problem. Part of the sewer pipe, which is in a wetland, was broken and blocked. The septic tank will have to be pumped every two weeks as a back-up has occurred since the sewer line repair. There is now an upright pipe in the sewer line that allows the sewer line to be cleaned. Willard commented that the upright pipe is actually within the BVW. Brownrigg asked where the leaching field was located, and Mollet said that it is uphill and farther from the library.

Willard said that more investigation will eventually need to be done to determine the extent of the problem with the septic system and further repair will require filing a Notice of Intent. Stevens said that the people doing the investigation will probably use a camera to inspect the sewer pipe. Willard noted that Emergency Certificates relate only to relieving the immediate emergency. There are siltation barriers installed to protect the resource area. The Board of Health wants the leach field investigated for problems. Burn noted that there should be baffles in the septic tank, and if they are missing, this could compromise the leaching field.

Willard suggested that a future Emergency Certificate (EC) could be issued that would specify what invasive work necessary to determine the cause of the problem once the process had been thought out. Brown moved to issue the existing EC. Guarino seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

ConsCom Budget – Willard stated that money from the Intents Account to be transferred from the Intents Account to augment Willard's wages was expected under the 2012 approved budget; she will have the document ready for the next meeting.

At 9:00 PM, Brownrigg moved to adjourn the meeting, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 5/10/12