

Carlisle Conservation Commission
February 25, 2010

Chair Peter Burn called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Clark Room at the Carlisle Town Hall. In addition to Burn, also present were Commissioners Tom Brownrigg, Jen Bush, Kelly Guarino, Debra Kimbrell-Anderson, Tricia Smith (7:50), and Diane Troppoli and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard.

Bills, General Agenda Items, New Business:

Certificate of Compliance: (DEP 125-0848) Applicant: Theodore Mark, Project Location: 24 Bingham Road, Project: Barn removal & construction, construction of a deck and stairs, Issued: 3/5/2009: Based on Willard's recommendation that the work was completed satisfactorily in accordance with the Plan of Record, *Bush moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance, Troppoli seconded and all attending voted in favor, with the exception of Smith, who was opposed.* Willard noted for the record that the property is being sold and the new owner does not plan to construct a new barn, however, she has been informed that the sale was contingent on the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance on the portions of the proposed work that were completed.

Middlesex School - Crew Activities on Concord River: The Commission discussed the request put forth by the Middlesex School of Concord to the Billerica Board of Appeals for a variance on the school's Billerica property in order to build a boathouse on the Concord River. While the idea of crew activities being allowed was found to be reasonable, the proposal to essentially close the river to other users during practice and races was met with complete opposition due to its potential interference with other outdoor recreational uses. It was noted that both the USFWS and the SUASCO Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council have already communicated their opposition to the proposal to close the river to the Town of Billerica.

8:00 p.m. Farmers Agricultural Reports and Plans:

Fox Hill - John Bakewell and Kevin Brown reported on the previous growing season, which reportedly went well with the exception of a fungal disease that impacted several vegetable crops. Proposals for the next growing season include continuing work on eradicating invasive Oriental Bittersweet and conducting another brush burn in the spring. They also plan to plant several types of fruit trees as well as Christmas and shade trees in an area that has proven to be less than ideal for growing hay due to lack of sufficient sun and rocky soil conditions. Being that the proposal met with the Commission's approval, *Guarino moved to accept the Fox Hill report and to allow the proposed new agricultural uses, Troppoli seconded and all voted in favor.*

Hutchins-Robbins - John Valentine reported poor hay yields last spring due to wet weather conditions, with plans to plant alfalfa in place of Timothy in the upcoming growing season. He said that alfalfa is considered to be a much better feed and lasts about five to seven years. Although it is known to have a residual toxicity to alfalfa, he believes the toxicity has now expired since this crop was last planted. Valentine also reported having done substantial clearing of dead trees around the periphery of the fields and requested that the DPW might remove the remaining trees. If that is not possible, he requested that he be granted permission to remove dead trees that are posing a safety issue along the edge of the road. *Smith moved to accept the Hutchins Robbins report and future proposed activities, Troppoli seconded and all attending voted in favor.* **Fox Hill:** Dick Shohet presented his report and was in agreement with his counterparts that it was a relatively poor growing season for hay. His planned fertilizing and mowing regimes met with the Commission's approval, with *Smith moving to accept the report and planned activities for the upcoming season, Troppoli seconding and all attending voted in favor.*

Cranberry Bog, Fiske Meadow, Foss Farm, Greenough, Hutchins: Mark Duffy reported that although the past growing season was challenging early spring due to wet conditions, he was able to support his dairy operation through three or four harvests. He continues to employ Integrative Pest Management practices in handling pest control issues. Reporting on the Cranberry Harvest, Duffy said that despite the wet weather and a bear attack on his hives, the season was slightly up from last year. *Troppoli moved to accept the Fox Hill reports and proposed future activities for the upcoming season, Guarino seconded and all attending voted in favor.*

Bisbee Land: Report and Planning Form pending receipt from George Frasier.

8:35 p.m. Towle Management Plan - Public Hearing, Continued: *Smith moved to accept the Towle Field Management Plan as proposed by the Land Stewardship Committee, incorporating those changes discussed at the previous hearing, Troppoli seconded and all attending voted in favor.*

FY11 Budget: Burn reported having met recently with the Finance Committee which has requested that the Commission provide them with a metrics of activities and conduct an examination of the Bylaw Fee Schedule in order to more accurately support the office of the Commission. Willard reported that she is presently in the process of researching bylaw fee schedules used by other similar towns and incorporating them into a report to assist the Commission in the revision process.

Curve Street Dam - Warrant Article: At the suggestion of the Finance Director, the Commission will fund the projected costs associated with a Phase I Dam Safety Inspection of the Curve Street dam as ordered by the Office of Dam Safety through a Reserve Fund Transfer. The Town has been granted the requested extension through July 15, 2010 during which to conduct the inspection.

8:45 p.m. Community Gardens Revised User Rules and Plot Application Form - Public Hearing: Subsequent to having conducted a thorough review of the Foss Farm Community Garden Rules and Guidelines and Plot Application Form which were revised under the lead of Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee, *Guarino moved to adopt the proposed 2010 Foss Farm Community Gardens Rules and Plot Application Form with revisions as discussed, Smith seconded and all attending voted in favor. The Commission thanked Knight for her excellent work on the project.*

Selection of Manager(s) for Community Gardens: Bush recused herself, as she is a personal acquaintance of one of the applicants for the position. Lynn Knight, who was unable to be present for the discussion, had coordinated the Commission's efforts in defining and advertising the position that had recently been vacated when Bob Dennison retired after having served as the garden manager for many years. After conducting informal interviews with each of the five applicants, Guarino moved to appoint Jack O'Connor, Ed Humm and Carol Foster as Co-Managers Foss Farm Community Gardens. The motion was not seconded.

Following further discussion and additional input from the applicants, *Smith moved to appoint Jack O'Connor as the Foss Farm Community Garden Manager, Guarino seconded and all attending voted in favor. Guarino moved to allow O'Connor to select the Assistant Garden Managers, Kimbrell-Anderson seconded and all attending voted in favor. O'Connor nominated Carol Foster and Ed Humm as Assistant Managers, and both accepted.*

9:15 p.m. (DEP 125-0878) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Philip Giffey, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH)

Project Location: 273 South Street

Project Description: Residential community consisting of 26 residential rental units & associated site improvements including drives, parking, stormwater management, on-site septic and water supply

Burn opened the hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The hearing was continued at the applicant's request to March 18, 2010 at 8:30 p.m.

(DEP 125-0881) Notice of Intent

Applicant: William O'Brien, Pinnacle Partners

Project Location: 142 Bedford Road

Project Description: Removal of an existing dwelling and driveway and construction of a proposed dwelling, soil absorption system and associated site work

Burn opened the hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The hearing was continued at the applicant's request to March 18, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. *Burn requested a motion to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to possible litigation without returning to a Regular Session. The motion was made by Smith and seconded by Troppoli. Members voted as follows: Brownrigg, Aye; Bush, Aye; Burn, Aye; Guarino, Aye; Kimbrell-Anderson, Aye; Smith, Aye; Troppoli, Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hopkins
Administrative Assistant