

Carlisle Conservation Commission Minutes
June 28, 2012
Approved July 19, 2012

7:35 Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting. Also present were Lee Tatistcheff, Luke Ascolillo, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino, Tom Brownrigg and Conservation Administer Sylvia Willard. Tom Brown was not present.

7:35-8:00 Bills, Minutes, General Agenda Items and New/Pending or Old Business

Minutes

Guarino proposed a change to the May 10, 2012 minutes draft. She had proposed that the Conservation Commission work with established youth groups to clear field edges and felt this was not clear in the minutes. These minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting. Brownrigg proposed a couple of changes to the June 14, 2012 minutes.

Tatistcheff moved to accept the June 14, 2012 minutes. Tom Brownrigg seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Camping Regulations

Willard was called by a man who wanted to spend a month camping on land located at the corner of South and West Streets. This land is owned by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation and he would require their permission not the Conservation Commission's, however Willard wanted the commission to review the Camping Regulations. The commissioners worried that there were no time guidelines in the Camping Regulations. Willard explained that currently this is left up to her discretion. Tatistcheff suggested that if this long term camper does need to find another piece of land he should come before the Commission with a proposal for waste disposal, fire use and environmental impact.

Willard had also had a separate call from a teenager hoping to camp on the Benfield Land. Guarino stressed that camping was a privilege and all campers needed to act responsibly so that camping can be allowed in the future. Tatistcheff suggested that for minors requesting a camping permit they should required to have an adult cosigner.

Certificate of Compliance

DEP 125-0855 10 Maple St.

Demolition of a single family home, construction of a new home; issued 5/5/2009

In addition to the construction of the house, the owner had recently requested removal of a tree in the 100-foot Buffer Zone. The house has been demolished and rebuilt, but to Willard's knowledge the tree has not been taken out. Willard went to do a site visit, but the family was not present and the visit was inconclusive. Burn recommended waiting to issue a COC until the tree removal was confirmed.

DEP 125-041 1177 Curve St.

Construction of a driveway, single family home, pool and tennis court; issued 7/31/1980, 1-year extension issued 3/26/1984

A plan submitted under a previous Notice of Intent was not followed as the swimming pool was not put in the location indicated on the plan, as well as other discrepancies. In 1986 a separate NOI was filed for the property, this time for what was actually done according to the As-Built Plan submitted with the filing, and a COC was issued at the same time for that project. Willard did a site visit and reports that the home is built according to the second NOI plans; she recommends issuing a COC for the outstanding, original Order of Conditions as that would be the only way to remove the original OOC's from the deed. Guarino moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Ascolillo seconded the

motion and all voted in favor.

8:00 DEP 125-0909 Orders of Conditions

56 Peter Hans Road

Tani Currin: Request to remove a tree within the 100-ft Buffer Zone of a BVW

Currin received approval to have some trees removed in order to install a septic system. Currin would like to remove a tree in front of the house at the same time as this work is being done. The tree is very large and she feels that it is too close to the house. It is encroaching on the roof and probably the foundation as well. She plans to file a NOI at the next meeting for a landscape plan and a porch on the back of the house. **Guarino moved to approve a field change to allow for the removal of the tree encroaching on the house, as indicated in the plan. Tatistcheff seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

8:05 Field Edge Clearing

Willard and Jack O'Connor talked to seven companies and received six bids for the field edge clearing project at Foss Farm. The lowest quote from a company that had the appropriate equipment and abilities for the job came from J. M. Cook Co., Inc., who has done similar work for the National Park Service in Concord in the past. They proposed to use a shear head to cut all trees smaller than 8-10 inches in diameter and then use a Fecon chipper head to grind up the smaller trees and brush. The bid was \$4,300 and will include both clearing the field edges of the Upper Field at Foss Farm, and the field edge next to the Community Gardens. This will be done in the fall when the crops have come in.

The plan specifies that specimen trees located along the edge of Bedford Road will be left standing. Brownrigg wondered what these trees were, and where they were located. O'Connor explained that the specimen trees were the oldest and largest trees, and were located along the stone wall surrounding the field. Guarino pointed out that the specimen trees were a marker of where the original field edge was located and by bringing the field edge back to the specimen trees, the field would be returned to its original size. Willard also said that bringing the edge back to the specimen trees would allow people to see into the field, as a deterrent for parties, which have been a problem in the past. She also mentioned that there is supposed to be a trail around the field and the Trails Committee has found a location to install a new foot bridge and is looking forward to making the trail accessible. O'Connor said that he will be on site when the clearing occurs and will be able to monitor which trees are to remain untouched. Some low branches which have grown toward the field will also be removed from the specimen trees.

Burn, having seen a video of the equipment that will be used, wondered what would happen with the slash left behind, which the video showed to be significant. O'Connor said that all of the material left behind should be chipped, and he will make sure this happens. Willard said that the company's Certificate of Liability which was sent to her actually expired last year. They will give her a current copy.

Guarino moved to enter into a contract with J.M. Cook Company Inc. in accordance with the bid outline contingent on a current Certificate of Liability, for the amount not to exceed \$4,300. Tatistcheff seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the contract was signed by Burn.

Year End Budget Information

Tatistcheff moved to encumber the sum of \$4,300 to cover the aforementioned contract for field edge clearing. Bush seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Guarino moved to encumber \$4,738.50 for field mowing at Towle Field under the contract already in place. Ascolillo seconded the motion. Bush abstained and all others voted in favor.

Willard reported on the year end budget. The Commission will be returning approximately \$10,000 from the 53E1/2 account and \$5,930 from the General Fund account. This was possible because there was no Assistant Conservation Administrator this year. Burn suggested reminding the Finance Committee of this fact. There is no time left to determine other field edge clearing projects this year, as was suggested. Guarino would like to increase the maintenance line item, or create a separate line item to address field edge clearing in the coming year.

8:25 Discussion of the Middlesex Conservation Survey

The Commission discussed the Middlesex Conservation District survey that was presented to them at the last meeting. Guarino was not clear on how to make the survey useful to the Conservation Commission. Brownrigg thought that the survey seemed more appropriate for the farmers in town. The consensus was that the survey is essentially gathering information about which programs have worked for towns in the past, and which have not. Willard mentioned the Land Owner Incentive Plan, which is a program that helps private land owners who own large parcels of land create wildlife habitat. She also brought up Wildlife Habitat Incentive Plan, which is a similar program that used to be available to towns and is now only available to private land owners. Guarino suggested that the Commissioners write these programs down on the survey and stress that, while the programs have been successful in the past, town land no longer qualifies for the program. Willard said that the USDA has professionals that might be available to help with soil and similar programs. They are currently working with Clark Farm. Guarino said that it should be made clear through the survey that the Commission has been focusing on invasive plant species. Bush said that a large issue for the land was lack of funding.

8:35 Elliot LAND Grant Application

Guarino, Burn and Willard attended the Selectmen's meeting. The Selectmen endorsed the land grant and will contact elected officials to try and generate support for the LAND Grant Application. The Conservation Commission will contact other conservation commissions and local groups to stress the importance of the Elliot land as a natural resource.

Burn recommended that citizens write to their legislators about the value of the Elliot land. Willard reported that the application is still being tweaked and needs Tim Goddard's signature. A photograph documenting the first recorded sighting of a Black-Crowned Night-Heron, viewed in Carlisle during the Riverfest is anticipated to be put into the application.

8:40 Five Year Action Plan (Sections 8 and 9) for the OSRP 2013 Issue

The Commission reviewed the goals laid out in the OSRP, Section 8. This was necessary because the Land Grant Application process includes questions about how the grant would help meet the town's goals.

Tatistcheff would like to add invasive species management to Goal 2, which is to protect the town's environment. Willard asked whether the goal would prioritize areas with rare and endangered species. The Commissioners all agreed that removing invasive and nuisance plants, such as poison ivy, should be a goal, no matter where they are located because they impede the town's use of the land.

Willard wondered whether the Community Gardens should be addressed in the goals. Burn wanted any inclusion of a goal relating to the gardens to be noncontroversial. Tatistcheff said that the gardens already served community goals; they encourage small scale agriculture, and serve as community recreation. It was decided that the Community Gardens were not a goal, but rather a program that meets the town's goals

Willard said that the Land Stewards will be writing their objectives and plan. They did not exist as a group at the time the current OSRP was written. It was decided that like the gardens, the Land

Stewards serve to meet goals but are not a goal in and of themselves. Guarino noted that the CPA section also needs to be updated because it is no longer accurate

Tatistcheff suggested that Section 9 be revised at the next meeting, after the Commissioners review it. Brownrigg wanted to consider Section 8 at the next meeting.

9:00 Invasive Plant Control Strategy

Sally Zielinski and Lynn Knight wrote up a summary of the June Conservation Coffee's discussion about invasive plant species management. Guarino suggested that the Conservation Commission get a booth at Old Home Day next year to educate the public about invasive species, possibly including pressed or potted examples. Zielinski said that at the Coffee it was suggested that the Garden Club organize a display of invasive plants for the Gleason Public Library, instead of their usual flower display. Guarino moved to form an Invasive Plants Advisory Group. Tatistcheff seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The individuals who attended the June Conservation Coffee will be invited to join.

Willard would like to research what other Towns' Conservation Commissions have been doing to address the issue of invasive plant species. She wanted to have more information about how the special conditions to allow for the removal of invasive species have worked in other towns. She is concerned about issuing continuing conditions that address invasive species management because they go on the deed permanently. She wanted to be sure this would not become a problem for landowners later on. It would also be useful to learn which strategies seem to be working, and which are not. Burn thought that this would be a good workshop at the MACC. Willard and Burn will make a list of items to include in a workshop, which will be emailed to Zielinski and crafted into a proposal.

9:10 Junior Conservationist Award

Guarino made a lovely Junior Conservationist of the Year award to be presented at Old Home Day to Claire Brandhorst.

It has come to Willard's attention that Brandhorst's signs have been stolen and vandalized over the past few weeks. Guarino would like the Commission to write a letter to the Mosquito asking that this vandalism stop. Guarino agreed to write the letter, and Burn will edit it. Willard said she would like to send an email to Brandhorst's mother asking that Brandhorst leave her signs up, even though they are vandalized. She would like the community to see what has been happening. Tatistcheff moved to deplore the juvenile defacing Claire Brandhorst's Turtle Crossing Signs. Brownrigg seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

9:15 Riverfest Report

Twenty people came to the early morning canoe trip. The water was beautiful and the weather was foggy, and they saw an unusual bird. Most attendees came from Carlisle or surrounding towns, although one person came from Turkmenistan.

9:20 Senior Helper Report

For the third year, Willard hired a Senior Helper. He has been going through old files, getting rid of duplicate files. This has created more space in the vault.

9:25 Tatistcheff moved to adjourn. Bush seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by
Amelia Cox