

**Carlisle Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**July 21, 2011**

Vice-chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:45 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brownrigg, and Jenifer Bush and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present. Members Debra Kimbrell-Anderson and Kelly Guarino were absent.

**7:45-8:00 PM - New & pending business**

Election of Chair and Vice-chair - Bush moved to elect Peter Burn as Chair for FY 2011; Brownrigg seconded and all voted in favor. Bush moved to elect Kelly Guarino as Vice-chair; Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

August Meeting - Willard requested a change in the August meeting date from August 11 to August 18. All members were in agreement with the new date.

Cranberry Bog House License Agreement - Guarino has agreed to review the license, but discussion was postponed to a later date.

800 Curve St. response - Willard said that the property owner spoke with her today via telephone. He was not able to attend the meeting but will respond in writing to a letter sent by Willard regarding the plantings on Cranberry Bog land or the town right-of-way across from his house.

Doug Tallamy Lecture sponsorship - Willard stated that Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will present a lecture at the Carlisle School's Cory Auditorium on Oct. 5. The lecture is funded by the Susan Zielinski Fund and CCF. The school suggested that the lecture be sponsored by a town board, which would make it fee-exempt. Brownrigg moved that the Conservation Commission sponsor the lecture. Ascolillo seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Cranberry Bog Coordination Committee - At an earlier meeting with Carlisle conservation groups, David MacLachlan, Chair of the Chelmsford Conservation Commission suggested the formation of a joint committee with Carlisle to discuss activities at the Cranberry Bog properties. Guarino agreed to be a member, and it was hoped that the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) could provide a member. Unfortunately, this topic was not discussed at the last LSC meeting; it will be discussed at their next meeting.

Mannis Land Survey - Willard stated that she would like to contact Stamsky & McNary, the low bidder on this project, so that they can begin surveying and staking the Mannis Land. Brownrigg moved that Willard contact Stamsky & McNary, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

Towle Field Invasive Species project - Brownrigg reported that he visited Towle Field the previous week in order to map locations of glossy (aka European) buckthorn and poison ivy. He took GPS readings at locations with the heaviest infestations of buckthorn. He was able to map the buckthorn because it grows tall, but much of the poison ivy was hidden by taller vegetation. He will return to Towle later this summer to complete the mapping. Once the mapping is complete, he plans to contact local experts on possible control methods, and also investigate

grant opportunities. Lynn Knight of LSC has agreed to help. According to the booklet “Invasive Plants of Massachusetts”, by NHESP, European buckthorn is considered an invasive plant, but poison ivy is not, since the former is not native; this could affect grant funding for poison ivy control.

Jack O’Connor, who has an agreement with the Commission to mow Towle Field, spoke from the audience to say that he will voluntarily mow a section of Towle Field (about 25 ft. x 60 ft.) at frequent intervals during the summer to determine whether frequent mowing might be a solution to eliminating buckthorn and poison ivy. Willard mentioned that John Bakewell, an authority on invasive plants, asked to be kept informed of future activities.

**8 PM – (DOA-286) Request for Determination of Applicability, 163 Brook St.**

**Applicant: James and Donna Carter; Project Description: removal of trees within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within the 200-foot Riverfront Area.**

Applicant James Carter was present to discuss the project, which involves removal of five dead trees and two dying trees (all beaver damaged) near his driveway. Carter distributed a photo taken of the dead trees, which are not far from Brook St. Brownrigg asked Carter why he wanted to remove the trees, to which Carter replied that the dead trees are “dropping branches”, and since the trees are near the driveway this presents a safety hazard. Bush asked if he plans to remove the stumps. He said he will not remove the stumps; he will hire a tree surgeon to cut the trees level with the ground and have the wood cut to size for fire wood. Brownrigg asked if he would consider removing just the limbed upper parts of the dead trees, leaving the lower part as wildlife habitat. Carter replied that there are many dead trees in the wetland opposite his driveway on Brook Street, so that, in his opinion, the small number of trees he plans to remove would not constitute a significant loss of habitat. Willard stated that she was copied on a letter from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) indicating that the applicant must file with MESA (Mass. Endangered Species Act); Carter replied that he has not done so yet. Since the proposed work occurs in rare species habitat, NHESP will have to comment prior to reaching a determination. The discussion was continued to the September 8, 2011 meeting at 8 P.M.

**8:15 PM - (DEP125-0903) Notice of Intent, 41 Skelton Rd.**

**Applicant: Prema Bose; Project Description: removal of an existing home and pool and construction of a new home and associated grading**

The applicant, Prema Bose, was represented by engineer Gary Shepard of David E. Ross Associates, Inc. and architect Anthony Pisani. Shepard outlined the plan of work, and stated that although the footprint of the proposed home will be larger than the original home, all construction will be in an area that is already disturbed, primarily lawn. He estimated that 7.4% of Riverfront Area (RA) will be disturbed, and the Wetlands Protection Act allows up to 10% of the RA on the lot. Seven trees in the RA near the house will be cut, but they plan to use the existing septic system. Shepard also presented an alternatives analysis, which concluded that, given the desirability of the existing house site (with spectacular river views) a house located out of the RA would not be economically equivalent. Architect Pisani described the proposed new house, which is designed to be energy efficient; it will have stone walls on the north, east, and west sides, with glass windows facing south toward the river. It will use a geothermal well for temperature control. Bush asked if there might be an opportunity to preserve more RA.

Shephard stated that, in his opinion, the only economically equivalent option would be to modify the existing house. However, the desired energy efficiency features would make this option even more expensive. Pisani mentioned that the owner intends to donate a portion of the property to a conservation land trust. Bush asked the age of the existing house, to which Pisani replied that in his opinion, it was built in the 1960s or 1970s. (Speaking from the audience later, abutter Fontaine Richardson said that the house was built in the 1940s or 1950s.) Since the property includes rare species habitat, the NOI must be reviewed by NHESP, and Willard had not received a response as of the time of the meeting.

Willard recommended that the commission visit the 41 Skelton Rd. site, which could be combined with a visit to the adjacent Richardson property, for which a conservation restriction is proposed and therefore also needing a site visit. Willard said that she will contact the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee (CRAC) regarding a joint site visit.

Carlisle Mosquito reporter Sally Zielinski asked the total acreage of the site, and was told by Shepard that it is 10.6 acres; it also contains both Estimated and Priority Habitat as designated by NHESP.

Since a response from NHESP has not been received and a site visit was needed, the hearing was continued to the August meeting.

### **8:30 PM Interview with Conservation Commission applicant, Thomas Brown**

Thomas E. Brown of 237 Stoney Gate was present to discuss his application for a vacancy created with the resignation of Tricia Smith last year. Brown, his wife, and daughter moved to Carlisle from Boston in 2010. His occupation is a software developer for financial applications. Brownrigg asked him what attracted him to ConsCom. He stated that he “likes to identify things” he sees, including birds and insects. While living on Mission Hill in Boston, he organized “High on the Hill Campaign”, an effort to get people to know their neighbors. His other interests include mountain biking and hiking on conservation lands, especially Foss Farm and Great Brook Farm State Park. Willard has talked with him about various ConsCom activities, including implementing wetlands regulations and interaction with other conservation committees such as the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) and CRAC.

After some discussion, the commission agreed that Brown’s interest and enthusiasm were strong, and that he would be a welcome addition to the commission. Brownrigg moved that the commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Brown be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Bush seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Willard will write a letter of recommendation for the Selectmen.

### **8:45 PM - Lynn Knight: Potential CISMA Invasive Plant project at Foss Farm**

Lynn Knight of LSC (and CISMA) discussed a potential grant opportunity to remove invasive plants at Foss Farm, called the “Pulling Together Initiative”. The Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SuAsCo CISMA) hopes to submit a grant application to the National Wildlife Foundation for control of invasive plants. Foss Farm is one of four SUASCO sites that will be addressed. The goal is to improve meadow and early successional wildlife habitats that are threatened by invasive plants. A pre-proposal has already been submitted; if successful, CISMA will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Bush asked why Foss Farm was chosen. Knight said that it has both early successional and meadow habitats, and numerous invasive species including glossy buckthorn and oriental bittersweet. In addition, it borders Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and the refuge is interested in removing invasives on their properties and is a partner on the proposal effort. Earlier in July, Knight toured Foss Farm with Ted Elliman of New England Wildflower Society. Elliman is a CISMA member and has considerable experience with controlling invasive plants. Brownrigg commented that winning a grant would provide valuable experience with methods to control invasive plants. ConsCom members thanked Knight for her proposal efforts.

### **9:00 PM - Warren Lyman: Cranberry Bog House update**

LSC member Warren Lyman gave an update on repairs to the Cranberry Bog House. The contractor, S.I. Services, of Framingham started work in mid-July. The Board of Selectmen approved five change orders, and work is proceeding on three of these. Work on the other two change orders will depend on available funding. Lyman distributed a list of the change orders and their costs. Approximately \$125,000 of the \$165,000 approved by Town Meeting has been allocated. Lyman said that the contractor is working quickly, and the committee overseeing the work is pleased with the workmanship and the willingness of the contractor to consider input from committee members. ConsCom thanked Lyman for providing a progress report.

### **9:25 PM - Executive Session**

Brownrigg moved to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss potential litigation, and to not return to regular session afterward. Members voted as follows: Ascolillo, aye; Brownrigg, aye; Burn, aye; Bush, aye.

#### **Document Register:**

1. Five (5) photographs of the model of the house for DEP 125-0903, 41 Skelton Road
2. One (1) photograph from the river of the proposed house
3. Architectural site plan, 7/10/2011 of proposed house for 41 Skelton Rd., DEP 125-0903. Pisani & Associates.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 9/22/11