

Carlisle Conservation Commission
January 14, 2010

Chair Peter Burn called the meeting to order at 7:43 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 (8:15), Debra Kimbrell-Anderson, Tricia Smith, Diane Troppoli and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard.

Filing Fee Schedule: There was a brief discussion with regard to the Commission's continuing efforts to revise the current Bylaw Filing Fee Schedule in order to more accurately support their activities. The last fee schedule revision occurred in 2003. The Administrator reported having made progress in her efforts in researching fee schedules currently in place in other comparable communities. The discussion was continued to the January 28, 2010 meeting.

Land Use Request - Towle Land: A representative from the non-profit organization Gaining Ground had recently contacted the Administrator to inquire about the possibility of undertaking Sugar Maple tapping on the Towle Land in February. The group grows organic vegetables and fruit with the help of community volunteers and donates the food to area meal programs and food pantries. The Commission will consider a one-year Agricultural License following the placement of the required Legal Notice in the Carlisle Mosquito in order to determine if there may be other parties interested in tapping at Towle.

Annual Town Report: Willard informed the Commission that she has begun working on the Annual Town Report, due in early February and requested clarification from the Commission on their preferences for the contents of this year's submittal. The Commission requested that she include greater detail in the report to more accurately reflect the work of the department.

8:05 p.m. DEP 125-0877) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Scott Henderson

Project Location: 511 Brook Street

Project Description: Construction of terraces, retaining walls, steps and walkways within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and the 200-foot Riverfront Area

Burn opened the continued hearing under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The previous hearing was continued due to a pending review of the Plan by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, which has since been received with the determination that the proposed project will not adversely affect the actual habitat of the state-listed Blanding's Turtle (Threatened). *Smith moved to close the hearing for DEP #125-0877, Bush seconded and all attending voted in favor. Smith moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, Bush seconded and all attending voted in favor.*

8:15 (DEP 125-) Abbreviated Notice of Intent

Applicant: Margery & Edgar Berube

Project Location: 784 North Road

Project Description: Removal of 18 trees within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland

Burn opened the hearing under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Property owner Ned Berube presented the proposal to remove 18 trees in order to address safety concerns due to the close proximity of the trees to the house and outbuildings. It was determined that the proposal was acceptable pending the DEP review, with the requirement that construction fence should be used to delineate the limit of work. *The hearing was continued to January 28, 2009 at 8:30 p.m.*

8:35 p.m. (DEP 125-0878) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Philip Giffie, 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 continued hearing under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Engineer Mark Beaudry of Meridian Associates was present on behalf of the applicant.

Beaudry reported having recently received comments from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) subsequent to their review of the filing in accordance with the MESA Program. Their primary concern is with the extent of the proposed disturbance to upland forest habitat on Lot 1, as the area is critical for the blue-spotted salamander (species of Special Concern). In accordance with recommendations from NHESP, they are in the process of working with NOAH and the architect on redesign work in order to reduce the area of disturbance down to 15K s.f. The revised Plan will be provided to the Commission as it becomes available. They will also be conducting a wildlife study in accordance with the NHESP requirement that they submit Appendix A/Wildlife Habitat Study. Beaudry noted that NHESP may also require the submittal of Appendix B, as yet to be determined.

Addressing concerns cited by the DEP with regard to the Riverfront delineations along Spencer Brook, Beaudry reported that they are currently in the process of obtaining proposals from several wetlands consultants in order to get the Riverfront Area delineated.

Moving forward they are also in the process of obtaining the digital drawing file produced by MetroWest engineering in 2003 for the ANRAD in order to verify the wetland boundary lines and to reestablish the original flaggings where needed. Willard asked whether the tree line as shown on the Plan reflects current conditions. The representative agreed to have this verified.

At the representative's request, the hearing continued to February 11, 2010 at 8:30 p.m.

(DEP 125-718) Request for Extension of ORAD - Benfield Farms – South Street:

It was noted that a formal request for an extension of the ORAD that had been issued on January 29, 2004 and extended to January 29, 2007 has been submitted. In accordance with the provisions of the WPA Regulations, the Commission determined that the Wetland Resource Area delineations would need to be verified by a qualified professional with the flagging to be reestablished where needed before the request could be considered. The discussion will be continued on January 28, 2010 at 8:45 p.m.

9:30 p.m. Carlisle Cranberry Bog House Repair: Project leaders Warren Lyman, Debbie Geltner and Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC), provided a report on the status of their funding proposals for the repair/restoration of the Cranberry Bog House.

Subsequent to recent meetings with the Long Term Capital Committee, and the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPC), Lyman reported that all parties are supportive of the fact that this is a town responsibility, recommending that the Commission move forward in submitting formal requests for funding for FY11.

Both Committees also advised the group to evaluate a “Plan B” in the event that funding for the repairs is not awarded, by obtaining cost estimates for the demolition of the Bog House, along with cost estimates for constructing a storage shed. Lyman noted that demolition of the structure, which had been constructed specifically to support the operations of the Bog, would likely result in the end of cranberry farming as it would no longer be feasible. Should the cranberry growing cease; there would also be the potential for Carlisle to lose its state-granted water rights associated with active cranberry harvest.

Moving forward, the group recommended that the Commission formally authorize a subgroup to submit an application for funding to CPC for use of CPA funds, subject to the Commission’s review and approval prior to submission to CPC. They also requested that the Commission draft a Warrant Article to raise those funds should CPC determine they are unable to grant the total amount requested.

Community Gardens Update: Lynn Knight of LSC requested approval to establish a Gardeners Advisory Group in order to address some of the ongoing issues with the management of the gardens, including but not limited to plot allotment guidelines and plot abandonment. The group would also propose revisions to the current garden rules based on feedback from current gardeners and by looking at other community garden regulations, which would be subject to the Commission’s review and approval at a Public Hearing. A preliminary discussion with the gardeners will be held on February 2 at Town Hall.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Willard provided an update on the efforts to qualify the Town for a two-year extension on the OS&R Plan due to expire in 2011. She is in the process of obtaining the required information from the appropriate town boards and committees in time for the February 28 deadline. It was recommended that information on the activities of the Land Stewardship Committee be incorporated into the Commission’s submittal, including the development of several Baseline Assessments for town-owned conservation lands.

10:50 p.m. *Smith moved to adjourn, Troppoli seconded and all voted in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hopkins
Administrative Assistant