

**Carlisle Conservation Commission**  
**July 22, 2010**

Pursuant to a notice filed with the Town Clerk, Vice Chair Peter Burn called the meeting to order in the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 8:15 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Tom Brownrigg, Jen Bush and Tricia Smith and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard.

**MacAfee Land Restoration:** Steve Hinton was present to provide the Commission with an update on the status of the restoration of the disturbed area on a portion of the MacAfee Land. Hinton has been working with the property owner, who had unknowingly undertaken tree and vegetation removal on what he assumed was his land but was in fact on a portion of town-owned conservation land. According to Hinton and as depicted in the photographs presented during the discussion, the landowner has made tremendous progress in his efforts to comply with the recommendations previously put forth by the Land Stewardship Committee.

Responding to Hinton's request for direction relative to appropriate ground cover materials, the Commission recommended using woodchips on the trail areas and hay in areas that had been stripped of natural vegetation. Also discussed was the timing of the tree and shrub planting, as the property owner has an extended trip planned during September and would prefer to do the planting during the last two weeks in August. Given the extremely dry conditions that exist, the Commission reserved the right to require replanting in the spring should it be deemed necessary.

In the meantime, Hinton is optimistic that the property owner will be providing a public trail easement that would provide a link from Tall Pines to the new Rail Trail in Westford, likely to occur next spring or summer once the Commission provides the homeowner with a letter documenting final acceptance of the restoration work.

**Community Service Project Proposal:** Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee informed the Commission that CCHS student Amelia Cox has volunteered to assist LSC volunteers with trimming and brush removal at the entrance to Foss Farm. Cox will also be assisting with the mapping of invasive vegetation at Foss Farm and Greenough Pond. LSC will use the data to support several grant applications they plan to submit in order to undertake the invasive plant removal work, including possibly partnering with other members of the SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. Smith encouraged LSC to consider creating a Farm Plan for Foss, which would allow them to pursue other sources of grant funding through various state and federal agricultural agencies. Brownrigg suggested that LSC may also want to consult with the refuge manager at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, as he has observed that they have been very successful in controlling Japanese knotweed.

**Cranberry Bog House Repair:** Land Stewardship Committee member Warren Lyman reported having attended several Bog House Repair planning meetings along with LSC member Debbie Geltner, Town Administrator Tim Goddard, and Building Inspector John Luther. The group strongly recommends the establishment of an ad hoc building committee, since funding for the repairs has been approved at Town Meeting for FY11. The Committee would oversee the preparation of the RFP, compile bid specifications for the repairs, participate in the contractor selection process, and monitor the project while it is underway. Lyman reported that two Carlisle residents, one a structural engineer and the other a preservation architect, have also agreed to serve on the Committee. The Commission supported the initiative and will provide a recommendation that the BOS appoint an ad hoc Bog House Preservation Committee. At that time, the Commission will also encourage the BOS to consider establishing a permanent building committee that would oversee the implementation of all town building projects, with individual boards participating as appropriate. *Smith moved the motion, Bush seconded and all voted in favor.*

**879 Concord Street Enforcement Order:** Property owner Linda Taylor was present to continue the discussion of an Enforcement Order that had been issued on July 1 for unpermitted clearing within the BVW associated with Buttrick's Pond and within its 100' Buffer Zone. Taylor claims to have done the clearing at the suggestion of a realtor in order to provide access to a portion of the property that is currently on the market. At the Commission's July 8 meeting, they agreed to conduct a site visit at the property owner's request. Subsequent to the site inspection, the Commission determined that the slash material would need to be moved in order to allow the shrub layer to reestablish along the pond edge. The property owner will be allowed to maintain a narrow pathway for access purposes. All missing and/or disturbed wetland flags will need to be restored in accordance with the ORAD issued in March of 2009 in order to better define the wetland boundaries. The property owner agreed to record the ORAD with the Registry of Deeds, as it had been issued to a potential buyer who did not pursue the purchase and had neglected to record the document at the time of issue.

**Wetland Bylaw Fees - Proposed Revisions:** Tom Brownrigg distributed a spreadsheet he had compiled illustrating his findings in comparing the Commission's operating costs with filing fees in order to determine present reimbursement percentages. His preliminary findings suggest that current reimbursement rates are substantially inadequate. The Commission plans to hold a public hearing relative to adopting a revised fee schedule this fall.

**COC: (DEP 125-0853)** Location: 278 South Street; Project: home demolition, reconstruction, septic system repair, Issued: 4/6/2009: Based on Willard's recommendation that the project had been completed substantially in accordance with the Plan of Record, *Smith moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP 125-0853, Bush seconded and all attending voted in favor.*

**Benfield Farms Appeal:** Willard provided an update on the status of the Benfield Farms 40B appeal being pursued by Juergen Lemmermann of 548 South Street. She has been advised by Wetlands Reviewer Gary Bogue of the DEP that he plans to conduct a site visit in the near future. Upon informing the Commission that she has been visiting the site daily in order to obtain photographs of the stream in question at the request of BOS Chair John Williams, several members of the Commission found this request inappropriate given that the Commission had already made a determination prior to the close of the hearing. Burn will pursue the matter with John Williams in order to determine if this is an appropriate use of Willard's time.

**Maple Street Conceptual Plan:** In response to an inquiry recently put forth by applicant Yongdeng Chen with regard to requirements for an upcoming RDA in which he will present a conceptual plan for a stream crossing with a 20 foot driveway with work in the BVW, the commission determined that he would need to submit a plan with updated wetland resource area delineations as opposed to using approximate data for BVW and Riverfront.

**Turtle Study at Greenough Land:** In regards to her request to conduct research on Eastern Painted Turtles at Greenough, the Commission determined that intern Rebecca Loeb will be required to obtain a Land Use Permit. The Commission will at that time request clarification on her research methodologies.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hopkins  
Administrative Assistant

#### Document Register

- 1) Photographs of the MacAffee Land Restoration Process submitted by Steve Hinton (not dated)
- 2) Email dated July 21, 2010 from Yongdeng Chen to Elizabeth Barnett and Sylvia Willard