

Carlisle Conservation Commission
January 22, 2009

Chair Tom Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Clark Room at the Carlisle Town Hall. In addition to Schultz, also present was Vice Chair Peter Burn and Members Jennifer Bush, Tom Brownrigg, Kelly Guarino, Tricia Smith (7:55) p.m.) Diane Troppoli. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was also present.

Minutes, Bills & General Agenda Items:

Burn moved to **accept the September 25, 2008 minutes** as amended. Bush seconded and all attending voted in favor.

Troppoli moved to **accept the October 9, 2008 minutes**. Burn seconded and all attending voted in favor.

Brownrigg moved to **accept the October 23, 2008 minutes** as amended. Burn seconded and all attending voted in favor.

Burn moved to **accept the November 6, 2008 minutes**. Troppoli seconded and all attending voted in favor.

Troppoli moved to **accept the November 20, 2008 minutes** as amended. Brownrigg seconded and all attending voted in favor.

Bow-Tie Parcel – Land Transfer Request: Map 5, Parcel 46: Bush agreed to represent the Commission at the January 27, 2009 BOS meeting when the Bow Tie Parcel Land Transfer Request will be formally presented.

Extension Permit: (DEP 125-773) Cross Street; Project: Conservation Cluster, Common Driveways: Issued: 3/14/2006, Extended to: 3/14/2009: Based on Willard's recommendations, the Commission issued a three-year Extension Permit expiring 3/14/2012.

Land Use Permit Request - Brush Burning at Fox Hill: Guarino moved to issue a Land Use Permit to John Bakewell for brush burning associated with his existing Agricultural Lease at Fox Hill. Troppoli seconded and all attending voted in favor.

CPC Funding Update: As the Commission's representative on the CPC, Guarino provided an update with regard to the applications being submitted for the funding of repairs to the Cranberry Bog House and for the production of the 2011 OS&R Report. The next step is for each applicant to meet with the CPC to review the applications in detail. Guarino reported that based on a preliminary discussion of the Bog House application, there will clearly be a need to persuasively justify the expenditures in order to gain approval. As for the request for OS&R Report funding, there was a suggestion that some of the funds already allocated to Affordable Housing Committee could be used to partially fund the project, as the OS&R Report is routinely used by this committee for planning purposes. The next CPC meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2009.

Bylaw Revision – Brownrigg – Buffer Zone: Continuing in his research on scientific data supporting setback distances, Brownrigg provided the Commission with a report he had compiled which graphed the findings of studies on the relationship between buffer width and pollutant removal effectiveness. The Commission continues to be most appreciative Brownrigg's efforts to compile material to support a proposed setback in the revised Bylaw; however, it is unlikely that the revisions will be finalized in time for Town Meeting.

Snow Plowing at Foss Farm: Willard reporting having been advised of unauthorized snow plowing that had occurred on an agricultural field at Foss Farm. The field had been plowed by the dog sled training group in order to relocate their meeting place away from the parking lot, as the police have received repeated complaints from a new nearby resident about noise related to the training activities. It had been Willard's understanding that the group was going to plow close to the community garden plots where the soil is already compacted, however, the location was changed without her knowledge. The Commission requested that Willard instruct the dog sled training group to use the area between the gardens for parking in the future and to coordinate the removal of the existing snow piles with the DPW and the volunteer who will be maintaining the lot for the remainder of the season.

8:30 p.m. Camping Regulations: Schultz opened the continued hearing under the local Carlisle Bylaw. Tim Donohue of the Land Stewardship Committee presented the proposed Camping Regulations that had been drafted in response to a request from the Commission to look at the effects larger groups of campers may have on conservation lands and to assist with establishing guidelines accordingly. There was a concern that the existing Camping Regulations contained in Section III of the *Rules and Regulations for Use of Carlisle Conservation Land* may be inadequate for larger groups, as they did not sufficiently address camping activity within close proximity to pathways, waterways and property boundaries, nor did it address the issue of waste removal. The proposed camping regulations would allow groups of fewer than fifteen to coordinate a request through the Conservation Administrator, with requests submitted by groups of fifteen or more requiring a full review by the Commission. Addressing possible liability issues, the proposed regulations would require that any 503c or other non-profit organization, regardless of size, to provide the Commission with a Certificate of Liability. It was noted that the new regulations would continue to allow the Commission to issue all camping permits on a case-by-case basis. Willard noted that the existing *Rules and Regulations for Use of Carlisle Conservation Land* would need to be amended to reference the new regulations once they are finalized. **The hearing was continued for a final vote to February 12, 2009 at 9:00 p.m. in order to incorporate suggested changes and additions into the document and to allow an opportunity for a Board of Health review.**

8:45 p.m. Towle Maple Tree Tapping: The Commission reviewed a proposal submitted by John Bakewell and Kevin Brown for a one-year pilot project for maple tree tapping on the Towle Land. The applicants are proposing a limited number of small, sterile taps using ten to twelve maples trees that had been planted many years ago by a Boy Scout troop. Bakewell noted that a few of the trees will need to be inspected prior to the tapping to be sure they are healthy enough for tapping, as some appear to be suffering from the effects of acid rain and road salt as well as from drought associated with intense competition with the turf. The proposal includes a recommendation for the removal of the turf surrounding the trees to be replaced with mulch, with soil samples to be taken to determine what soil amendments may be required. In consideration of the agreement, the applicants propose in-kind services beyond basic field edge clearing, with one option being the possibility of providing some form of community invasive plant management education. The final terms of the in-kind services will be given further consideration. **Burn moved to issue the Land Use Permit for one year as requested.**

Smith seconded and all attending voted in favor. Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee requested that Bakewell inform them of any issues that may arise in association with the project.

9:00 p.m. SUASCO Cooperative Invasive Species Management - Memorandum of Understanding:

Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee was present to request the Commission's consideration of formally joining the newly formed group SUASCO Cooperative Invasives Species Management Area (CISMA). The group, which has been meeting informally for several years, is comprised of conservation professionals who are committed to controlling invasive species in the SuAsCo Watershed area on a regional basis. Knight, who assisted in drafting the Memorandum of Understanding and supplemental educational materials, said the MOU outlines the goals of the group, and how they may work together in a coordinated effort to identify what is out there, what the priorities are, and to set priorities in terms of how to manage invasives using shared resources. Existing member organizations include the SUASCO River Stewardship Council, Mass Audubon, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Sudbury Valley Trustees, New England Wildflower Society, USFWS, and NPS as well as the towns of Concord and Lincoln. According to Knight, there are no funding or legal obligations associated with becoming a member. **Burn moved to commit to the Carlisle Conservation Commission as principal partners in the SUASCO CISMA and to designate Lynn Knight as the Commission's representative. Smith seconded and all attending voted in favor.** Given the fact that the next cycle of the OS&R Plan is currently being planned, Smith requested that areas of heavy invasives infestation should be noted in the Plan.

Burn moved to go into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues related to replanning the FY09 Budget and to address FY10 Budget issues, returning to an Open Session to take a final vote on the budget. Smith seconded. Roll call: Burn - aye, Troppoli - aye, Smith - aye, Brownrigg - aye, Guarino - aye, Schultz - aye and Bush - aye.

The Commission left Executive Session at 10:30 PM. In regular session, Smith moved to approve the proposed FY09 and FY10 budgets, subject to quarterly review in FY10. All members voted in favor, except Bush, who abstained. Smith moved to adjourn, Burn seconded, and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hopkins, Administrative Asst.