

**Carlisle Conservation Commission**  
**May 12, 2011**

Pursuant to a notice filed with the Town Clerk, Chair Kelly Guarino called the meeting to order in the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Vice Chair Peter Burn, Commissioners Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brownrigg, and Jen Bush, and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard. Commissioner Debra Kimbrell Anderson was not present.

Bills, General Agenda Items, Minutes and New/Pending Business

**Town Meeting Report:** Guarino commended Ascolillo on the fine job he did in representing the Commission in their support for continuing the CPA surcharge; Willard thanked Guarino for representing the Commission relative to the request for the funding of a survey of the Mannis Land. Guarino acknowledged LSC co-Chair Tim Donohue for his preparation of the Powerpoint presentation material.

**Foss Farm Fence Rails:** Willard requested approval to purchase 18 fence post rails to replace posts damaged due to heavy snows and perhaps an overzealous snowplow operator. She has obtained a quote from R.D. Fence Company for \$254.88, and the DPW has agreed to pick up the materials and install the pending the Commission's approval of the purchase. *Burn moved to approved the purchase of the 18 posts, Brownrigg seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Request to Graze Sheep on Conservation Land:** Willard reported having received an inquiry from Carlisle resident Judy Asarkoff relative to the possibility of grazing sheep on town owned Conservation Land. The Commission asked Willard to encourage Asarkoff to provide them with a proposal for a Land Use Permit.

**Trash Removal Bids:** Willard circulated information relative to the two trash removal bids received in response to the Commission's Request for Quote for monitoring the barrels at Foss Farm and the Cranberry Bog. Escalating costs for the service had prompted the Commission to undertake review their current arrangement, including frequency of pickups and appropriate locations for the barrels. After reviewing the proposals, *Burn moved to select the bid from Chris Sireen of Carlisle Rubbish Removal, which came in at \$1 less per barrel the other submission. Bush seconded the motion and all attending voted in favor. Bush proposed to amend the motion by including the Commission's intention to review the arrangement after six months. All voted in favor.*

**Cranberry Bog Updates:**

**Bog House Repair Project.** Cranberry Bog House Preservation Committee members Warren Lyman was present to provide an update on the status of the project. The Invitation for Bid was issued on April 6, with 28 requests for bid material being received. A pre-bid conference and site visit was held on April 19 with six contractors in attendance. A total of five bids were submitted by May 5, the deadline for proposals. All bids were substantially below the \$165,000 that had been authorized by Town Meeting in 2010 for \$165,000; with the low bid being \$104,400 and a high bid of \$142,600. Lyman noted that state law dictates that the town must select the lowest bidder from amongst those bidders considered to be qualified to provide the service in accordance with the IFB. Town Administrator Tim Goddard has completed the initial process of reviewing of the qualified bids in order to determine whether all statutory requirements were met and is currently verifying professional references. At this point Lyman predicts that S. I. Services, Inc. of Framingham will be awarded the contract pending final reference confirmation. The Cranberry Bog

Preservation Committee will take a formal on the final contractor selection at their next meeting scheduled for May 18 to be followed by a two to four week contract negotiation process. Lyman predicts that work will commence within three or four weeks and to be completed within six months of the start date.

**Curve Street Sight Line.** Bog House Committee Member Debbie Geltner informed the Commission of her growing concerns relative to the poor sight lines along Curve Street across from the Cranberry Bog House at what she referred to as the “decreasing radius curve”. She reported having recently been nearly run off of the road by a dump truck when the driver had swerved to avoid an oncoming runner. She is concerned that the curve will become increasingly hazardous given the increase in construction vehicle traffic in an area with already limited parking capacity. Geltner proposed careful pruning of some of the understory that blocks the view of oncoming vehicles. Being that Curve Street is designated as a Scenic Roadway, removal of trees greater than six inches in diameter is strictly prohibited. The Commission supported Geltner’s request, asking that she avoid removal of native vegetation.

**Dumping at Cranberry Bog Conservation Land:** Willard reported having been informed clearing and landscaping near the old cellar hole across the street from 800 Curve Street. She distributed photographs of the area, including a photograph of the old cellar hole that had historically been hidden behind weeds but has recently been cleared and landscaped. Also included in the photos was one of a small trail that begins across from 800 Curve Street and runs down into the area where farmer Mark Duffy’s maintains a manure stockpile in association with his Agricultural License Agreement. Evidently someone has been using the trail to access the stockpile and removing buckets of manure for landscaping use elsewhere. Willard reported having spoken with Duffy and it appears that he was unaware of who may have constructed the makeshift trail.

In addition, there is a large area on the right of the trail just before the manure stockpile area where someone has been dumping yard waste with another pile having been discovered across the street in the vicinity of a certified vernal pool. Not wanting to jump to any conclusions as to the identify of the phantom dumper, the Commission asked Willard and the Bog Land Stewards to speak with some of the neighbors who may have observed the activities.

**Land Use Permit Request:** Accompanied by his well-behaved and faithful rescue dog, Russ Doucette of the Massachusetts Canine Response Team was present to request a Land Use Permit allowing rescue dog training sessions on town conservation lands. Doucette explained that the group had been training in Carlisle for five or six years with no incidence until last year, when the question was raised as to whether a Land Use Permit should be required for the activity. The team is comprised of eight members, each with a dog, including one cadaver dog and seven air-scented dogs. A typical training session involves locating a “victim” out in an area and releasing one dog, who will alert his handler to its location. Doucette assured the Commission that they are extremely conscientious about following the “leave nothing behind” protocol. Year round training sessions are held on Tuesdays, Thursday, Saturdays and Sundays, typically during the evening hours.

The obvious advantage to allowing the training is that they team becomes familiar with the town should the need arise for an actual search. Team members are certified in first aid and canine first aid as well as being trained in privacy preservation protocol. The team has always made it their practice to notify the police dispatcher prior to training sessions. Willard had prepared a Land Use Permit in anticipation of the Commission’s approval allowing training on Carlisle conservation lands up to eight times per year for a period of one year for search and rescue dog training for the purpose of public safety, subject to receipt of a valid Certificate of Liability. *Burn moved to approve the permit, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Gardening at Greenough:** Lowell Street resident Gale Constable was present to discuss her previously submitted proposal for small-scale agricultural gardening on the Greenough Land. The proposal includes cultivating a garden area of approximately 20' x 50' in the footprint of the recently demolished caretaker's cottage. Future expansion for additional community gardening on the land would be explored once soil conditions are assessed. Constable reported having received permission to use the access road that is located on CR land under the stewardship of CCF. The Land Stewardship Committee has reviewed the proposal and supports a license agreement on a trial basis. The Commission cautioned Constable to be aware of the possibility that there may be some broken glass in the area of the demolition and that she be aware of the possibility of theft and/or vandalism. They also recommended that she review the Baseline Assessment document previously created by the Land Stewardship Committee. A sign indicating that this is an approved one year pilot project shall be posted. *Burn moved to issue an Agricultural License Agreement for the 2011 growing season for a one- year pilot project for activities as outlined in the proposal submitted by the licensee and as approved by the Conservation Commission. Bush seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Motorized Vehicles on Public Trails:** Bush agreed to represent the Commission on a short-term committee being established to review new requirements implemented by the Department of Justice relative to Other Power Driven Motorized Devices on public land.

**Cranberry Bog Management Team:** Kelly Guarino agreed to represent the Commission on the Joint Town Committee being established in order to address issues of common concern to the two communities adjacent to the Cranberry Bog.

**Composting Guidelines for Vegetable Gardening:** In response to complaints put forth by several Foss Farm Community gardeners relative to the use of fresh animal bedding during the previous growing season, the Board of Health undertook an extensive review process and recently published official composting guidelines. Willard distributed the document, which the Commission will discuss as needed at a future meeting.

**Conservationist of the Year Award:** *Burn moved to allow the purchase of a Conservationist of the Year Award plaque at a cost of approximately \$60.00 using funds from the Commission's Conservation Gift Fund. Brownrigg seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Executive Session.** *At 8:40 p.m. Guarino requested a motion to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible future litigation without returning to a Regular Session. The motion was made by Brownrigg and seconded by Burn. Members voted as follows: Burn, Aye; Brownrigg, Aye; Guarino, Aye; Bush, Aye; Ascolillo, Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hopkins