

Carlisle Conservation Commission
Minutes
September 8, 2011

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present. Member Debra Kimbrell-Anderson was absent.

7:30-7:45 PM - New & pending business

Trail Easement – Steve Hinton of CCF sent Willard documentation for a recorded public trail easement granted by Sheldon Kolansky, 62R Sleigh Rd., Westford. The easement provides a trail connection between the Carlisle McAfee and Holmes-Avery Lands, and also between these properties and Sleigh Rd. in Westford. Guarino suggested that Willard write a letter thanking Mr. Kolansky, and that he be given a copy of the Trails in Carlisle booklet.

Certificate of Compliance, DEP 125-185, 15 Cutters Ridge Rd. - Work involved a subdivision road with drainage, fire pond, common driveway, and replication area, with Orders of Conditions issued 30 January 1986. Willard reported that the site looked stable on a recent visit, with no loose soil. Bush moved the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

Land Use Permit: Pony Club Fall Mounted Meet – The Old North Bridge Pony Club requested a land use permit for Foss Farm for Wednesdays and Saturdays, beginning Sept. 10 until Nov. 19. Bush asked about the mowing agreement for the area around the riding rings: is mowing done by the Pony Club, Mark Duffy, or another party? Willard said that she would contact the Pony Club to determine who mows the area between the fields and the parking area. Guarino moved to issue a land use permit, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.

Emergency Certificate: 739 Concord St. - Willard stated that she received a telephone call from Louise Hara while Willard was on vacation. Hara said that a large tree had fallen on their house after Hurricane Irene (Aug. 28). They have had the tree removed and roof repaired, but requested permission to remove two other trees that are leaning dangerously close to the house. Guarino moved to issue an emergency certificate for tree removal, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

7:45-8:00 PM – Lynn Knight: Pulling Together Initiative

Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee discussed the Pulling Together Initiative, a grant application prepared in cooperation with SuAsCo Cisma to control invasive plants in several areas in the SuAsCo watershed including Foss Farm Conservation Land. Knight distributed a written description of the project including a map showing the areas targeted for invasive plant removal, and a budget. Burn suggested that ConsCom members think about when to treat the invasive plants, assuming that herbicides are used, and how to dispose of brush. Bush said that the best time to treat with herbicides is late in the growing season. There was

discussion of various disposal methods, e.g. chipping with removal by DPW, or burning the cuttings on-site. Knight said another concern is how the treated areas are managed in the future: they might be mowed, or be planted with a native wildflower mixture. Since the funds allocated might not cover all four proposed treatment areas, these areas should be prioritized. Knight will return for a continued discussion at the next meeting on Sept. 22, and requested that people contact her via email if they have questions. The deadline for the grant proposal is Oct. 14, 2011.

8:00-8:15 PM – (DOA-286) Request for Determination, continued meeting. Applicants: James and Donna Carter. Project Location: 163 Brook St. Project Description: removal of trees within the 100-ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within the Riverfront Area.

James Carter was present and said that the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program had approved the removal of not more than seven trees (two live and five dead), provided that removal was done within five years. Brownrigg requested that the trees not be removed during the bird nesting season, approximately mid-May to mid-August. Carter said that he plans to have the trees removed within two weeks. Ascolillo moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

8:15-8:30 PM - New & pending business, continued

Cranberry Bog fish kill follow-up - Burn reported that he sent Mark Duffy an email soon after the fish kill was discovered on Aug. 21, requesting that the fish be removed and disposed of properly. Burn did not receive a reply, and subsequent visits by Willard and Bush indicated that the dead fish were gone, likely by natural sources. Guarino suggested that the fish kill be added to the agenda of the upcoming joint meeting of the Carlisle-Chelmsford Cranberry Bog committee on Sept. 13.

Foss Farm ground-nesting wasp report – Willard reported that Molly Heuss, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Durham, NH had written a report titled: “Observations of Two Collection Methods for Buprestidae in Parasitic Wasp, *Cerceris fumipennis*, Colonies in Southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts”. Brownrigg, Burn, and Bush expressed an interest in reading the report. Brownrigg will read the report first and return it to Willard.

8:30 PM (DEP 125-0904) Notice of Intent. Applicant: Eve Linn. Project Location: 580 West St. Project Description: Removal of 22 trees within the 100-ft. Buffer Zone, including one tree with the Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Representative Evan Stidham of Stamsky & McNary presented the work plan. Brownrigg asked about the understory plants near the trees scheduled for removal. Willard and the Linns, who were present, stated that there are many invasive plants, including glossy buckthorn and multiflora rose. Guarino noted that as part of tree removal, the Linns consider removing invasives, and possibly replanting the area with native plants. After discussion, Guarino moved the issuance of a Standard Order of Conditions, with the Special Condition that the applicants

may remove invasive plants under the direction of a licensed pesticide applicator if herbicides are used.

8:30-8:45 PM – Fontaine Richardson, 121 Skelton Rd.: Conservation Restriction #64

Bush reported that the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee (CRAC) met on Sept. 8 and discussed the Richardson Conservation Restriction. CRAC recommended that ConsCom accept the CR, consisting of approximately 4 acres of open fields, citing two public benefits: preservation of scenic vistas along Skelton Rd., and preservation of agricultural land. A memorandum issued by CRAC further recommended that the Board of Selectmen approve the acceptance of the CR by the Conservation Commission. Bush moved that ConsCom accept the CR, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor. Guarino thanked Mr. Richardson for granting the CR to the town. Willard will prepare a memorandum to the Board of Selectmen.

8:45-9:00 PM – (DOA -289) Request for Determination. Applicant: Leonard Smith. Project Location: 25 Russell St. Project Description: Installation of a proposed sewer line, septic tank and pump chamber with some work within the 100-ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Engineer Evan Stidham of Stamsky & McNary presented the plan. Brownrigg asked when the wetlands were delineated, and Stidham replied that the delineation was in May 2011. Brownrigg asked where the soil from the sewer line would be stockpiled and Stidham said it would be placed outside the Buffer Zone. After additional discussion, Ascolillo moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, with the additional requirement that the applicant submit a final plan approved by the Board of Health. Guarino seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

9:00-9:15 PM – Sally Swift and Steve Tobin, Carlisle Conservation Foundation: Conservation Fund Request

Swift explained that Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF) is working with Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) to protect a 9-acre parcel now owned by the Elliott family. Both SVT and CCF have pledged funds, and they are expecting grants from both state and federal sources. The land would be owned by SVT, and CCF would hold a CR. Swift asked if ConsCom would consider approving the use of money from the Conservation Fund. Tobin stated that they would ask for approximately \$45,000 from the Conservation Fund for legal and other costs related to the purchase.

According to Willard, the fund currently has approximately \$139,000 and possibly a little more. Most of this money resulted from a 1999 Town Meeting warrant article vote. Burn raised the question as to how the fund monies could be used, and Willard provided a copy of the 1999 warrant article. Burn read the article to the commission, which in part reads: “On motion of JoRita Jordan it was voted that \$100,000 be raised and appropriated for deposit in the Conservation Fund of the Town pursuant to Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws for studies and other activities involved in the acquisition of real estate, water rights, and other related interests in connection therewith...” Bush asked who approves the use of the fund, and Guarino suggested asking Larry Barton, Town Treasurer. Willard noted that money from the

Conservation Fund was used to survey the Carr Land, and possibly also the purchase of the Hutchins-Robbins fields and nearly all Conservation lands which were purchased.

Guarino said that ConsCom should understand what is required to spend money from the fund, and how funds were used in the past. Willard said that there is information about the fund in the MACC Handbook; Willard and Guarino will read the Handbook. Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

9:15-9:45 PM - New & pending business, continued

Carlisle-Chelmsford Cranberry Bog Committee meeting – A meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13 in Chelmsford. Guarino, Willard, and Warren Lyman of the Land Stewardship Committee will attend.

Invasive plant management on Towle Field – Brownrigg reported that he is almost finished GPS mapping of glossy buckthorn and poison ivy at Towle Field.

Hurricane Irene Emergency Regulations – DEP issued emergency regulations for damage in wetlands associated with Hurricane Irene. Conservation Commissions have until Sept. 27 to vote on whether to adopt these regulations. Willard distributed copies of the regulations. Speaking from the audience, Carlisle Mosquito reporter (and former MACC President) Sally Zielinski suggested that ConsCom read the Carlisle bylaw to determine whether the emergency regulations cover the bylaw regulations.

Budget Discussion – Brown said that he will begin working with Willard to construct a timesheet.

At 9:45 PM, Guarino moved to adjourn the meeting, Brownrigg seconded, and all voted in favor.

Document Register

- 1) Memo to Carlisle Conservation Commission from CRAC relative to CR #64
- 2) Cranberry Bog Subcommittee Agenda for 9/13/2011 in Chelmsford
- 3) Proposed Invasive Species Control Project at Foss Farm
- 4) Department of Environmental Protection Cover, Regulations and Emergency Certification relative to Hurricane Irene
- 5) Four (4) photographs taken at 580 West Street for filing DEP 125-0994.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 10/13/11