

Carlisle Conservation Commission
October 27, 2011

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:45 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Kelly Guarino and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present. Members Jenifer Bush and Debra Kimbrell-Anderson were absent.

7:45-7:55 PM – Cub Scout Rocket Launch

Scout Leader Mike Quale and several Cub Scouts were in attendance to request a permit for launching model rockets at Foss Farm on Nov. 5 from 11 AM – 4 PM. They will launch the rockets in the middle of the field where crops are grown. Burn asked how high the rockets go, and was told 100-200 ft. Guarino asked if there are any pieces of the rockets that would be left on the field, and was told that the rockets have a non-flammable tissue paper than prevents the fuel from burning the rocket. The tissue papers would be removed from the field and surrounding area after the launch; the scouts also visit Foss Farm in the spring and collect trash. Mr. Quale said that there would be about 50 scouts, each with two rockets. The rockets are launched from a pad mounted on a table. Guarino asked if Girl Scouts participate, and was told that girl siblings participate. Willard asked for a certificate of liability insurance and scout leader John Huthinson provided the document. Willard took a photograph of the scouts with their rockets for the document register as the office has no space to store three dimensional objects as required under the new open meeting rules. Guarino moved to issue a permit for the rocket launch, and all voted in favor.

7:55 – 8:00 PM New/Pending Business

COC: DEP 125-0821 Hanover Hill, Location: Westford St., Roadway, three common driveways and drainage, issued 6/05/08. Willard and Brownrigg visited part of the site on Oct. 26. They inspected a culvert under Hanover Rd. near Gormley Way and a wetland downhill from Gormley Way. Both areas had suffered stormwater damage in separate storm events during construction. The areas bordering the intermittent stream that flows under Hanover Rd. had been lined with “rip rap” to prevent further erosion and the wetland below Gormley Way had been cleaned of sediment and planted with native shrubs. The areas appeared to be stable, although there were some minor problems. Pieces of waste styrofoam were in the buffer zone and in the intermittent stream, and two haybales were in the stream bed. The plantings in the wetland near Gormley Way appeared to be alive, but there were siltation barriers and plastic netting (used to cover straw wattles) left in the wetland; it was thought the netting could be a hazard to birds and small mammals. Willard said that she contacted applicant Rob West regarding these issues, but has not completed her inspection of the entire site. Discussion of the COC will be continued to a later meeting.

COC: DEP 125-0881. Location: 142 Bedford Rd.; Project: Home, well, septic system, and grading within the 100-ft Buffer Zone 5/06/10, amended 6/30/10. Willard stated that the property owner has not paid the bylaw fee for a COC, but that the site looked stable.

Guarino moved to approve a COC pending payment of the bylaw fee. Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.

COC: 125-0888 Location: 125 South St.; Project: Oil spill remediation; Issued: 7/15/10. Willard reported that the site looks good. EcoTec, the company in charge of the cleanup, has issued a report concluding that the site has been remediated. Willard recommended issuance of a COC. Ascolillo moved to issue a COC, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor.

8:00 – 8:15 PM DEP 125-0906 Notice of Intent. Applicant: Romie Taylor; Project Location: 125 Bellows Hill Rd.; Project Description: replacement of a failed Soil Absorption System.

Mike DiModica of M. J. DiModica Excaving was present representing the applicant. DiModica explained that the site has a high water table and poor drainage. The septic system will feature improved technology that will treat the effluent before it enters the leach field. The applicant is requesting a waiver from a Board of Health (BOH) regulation regarding flows. According to Willard, Rob Frado, the BOH consultant, has not reviewed the plan, and for this reason Willard was concerned that there might be plan changes. DiModica did not think that any changes proposed by Frado would alter the location of the soil absorption system as shown on the plan. Willard suggested continuing the hearing until the next meeting on Nov. 17 so that Frado could review the plan. Ascolillo asked how the system treated the effluent, and DiModica said that the effluent is pumped through a styrofoam filter which provides more aeration. Guarino said that the proposed system is a big improvement over the existing system. Since there were no further questions, Guarino moved to close the public hearing, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.

8:15 – 8:30 PM DEP 125-0907 Notice of Intent. Applicant: Town of Carlisle, Gary Davis; Project Location: South St.; Project Description: Installation of a culvert under South St.

DPW Superintendent Gary Davis explained that a stone culvert under South St. near West St. will be removed and replaced with a concrete box culvert. The new culvert will be nearly the same size and elevation as the existing culvert. Willard met with Davis earlier to review the project, since several abutters expressed their concern. According to Davis, the abutters have now seen the plan and have no objections. Since the project is in NHESP Priority Habitat, approval is contingent upon NHESP review. Willard stated that it is likely that the project will be reviewed by them by the next meeting. Davis was concerned about completing the project this fall, since even if the project were approved, work could not begin until after a 10-day appeal period had elapsed. The hearing was continued until Nov. 17.

8:25 – 8:35 PM New/Pending Business, continued

Greenough Conservation Land gate

Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF) would like to install a gate on their property at the entrance to Greenough Land off Riveredge Rd. in Billerica. Willard thought that a gap in the gate should be left for pedestrian access. Guarino suggested a sign saying “foot traffic welcome”.

Willard said the sign should be welcoming to people with mobility devices. Brownrigg mentioned learning at the MACC Fall Conference that a 32-inch wide gap must be provided for wheelchair access; Willard has already discussed this with Steve Hinton of CCF.

Guarino asked whether there had been any progress regarding a use for the Greenough barn. Willard said that the town has owned the barn for 40 years, and it is in poor condition; she was concerned about someone being injured. Willard suggested that the town try to sell the barn and keep the weathervane. Burn said that the barn was an issue for the Board of Selectmen to decide.

8:35 – 8:50 PM DEP 125-0841 Request for a field change; Bob McCulley, 480 South St.

Bob McCulley requested a field change to an existing Order of Conditions for a septic system that would allow him to include landscaping changes (a new walkway and retaining wall) and also repaving the driveway. Guarino said that the commission has two choices, namely to approve the work as a field change, or for the applicant to submit an Amended Notice of Intent (ANOI). Willard said that an ANOI would require that notices be sent to abutters followed by a public hearing. According to Willard, McCulley's Orders of Conditions will expire in two years because of the Permit Extension Act. Burn said that he would be agreeable to a field change for all the work except repaving the driveway. Guarino suggested that McCulley consider using pervious driveway material. After more discussion, Guarino moved to accept only the proposed landscaping work as field changes. (Driveway repaving would require an ANOI.) Ascolillo seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

8:50 – 9:15 PM Benches at the Cranberry Bog

Janet Lovejoy and Kevin Walker were present to discuss Janet Lovejoy's donation of three stone benches for placement at the Cranberry Bog. Warren Lyman and Debbie Geltner of the Land Stewardship Committee were also in attendance.

Lovejoy prefers that the benches be granite blocks approximately 4 ft. long x 18 in. deep, x 24 in. high. Walker said that stones of this size are typically found in quarries. He has a rubber-track vehicle that can be used to take the blocks to the site, and there would be no site preparation needed. He has a liability waiver which he will send to Willard. Lyman suggested that Mark Duffy be present if possible when LSC members stake the locations. Willard relayed a suggestion concerning the use of wood chips around the base of the benches to discourage weeds, but Lovejoy was not in favor of wood chips. Geltner was concerned that poison ivy might grow around the benches. Lyman said that the approach to the benches should be level and safe for walking. Lyman noted that Duffy's workers do trimming around the bog field edges "irregularly" and could trim weeds around the benches.

Lyman asked Walker about the roughness of the granite blocks, and was told that they are relatively smooth, but sharp edges could be chiseled down if necessary. Walker said that there are probably 40-50 granite blocks of approximately the right size at the quarry, and that he will begin selection. Walker said that the granite blocks could be installed within a few days of when the project is approved. Geltner was concerned about the steep slope at the north dike, but

Walker did not think this was a problem. Lyman and Geltner will coordinate the installation of the benches. Guarino, on behalf of the commission, thanked Ms. Lovejoy for her generosity.

9:15 – 10:10 PM New/Pending Business, continued

Maintenance of field edges – Guarino suggested that the commission discuss maintenance of field edges at later meeting. Cutting brush along edges could be accomplished as part of a lease agreement, or might be funded through grants. She asked commission members to think of other ways field maintenance could be done.

Cranberry Bog Coordination Committee (CBCC) –Committee member Guarino said that the goal of the CBCC is to share information with Chelmsford and to be kept informed of special issues such as the proposed wells. Burn suggested that Tom Wilson of Chelmsford be invited to the next CBCC meeting and Guarino agreed to do this.

Proposed Chelmsford Wells – Guarino suggested a meeting with Mark Duffy, Tim Goddard, Sylvia Willard, and Guarino regarding the proposal for new wells in Chelmsford near the Cranberry Bog Reservation. This would be for the purpose of providing background to Guarino and Goddard on this subject dating back to 1999-2000.

Towle Field – Brownrigg said that he had contacted several people having expertise with controlling invasive plants, and that Ted Ellison of the New England Wildflower Society would visit Towle Field on Oct. 28 at 4 PM. According to Marianne Piche', Mass Wildlife Habitat Biologist, Wildlife Habitat Improvement (WHIP) grants are no longer available for publicly owned lands; she suggested looking into the use of CPA funds.

Carlisle Public School landscape plantings – Willard had sent the landscaping plan for the new school building prior to the meeting. Guarino noted the recent talk by Douglas Tallemey on using native plants for landscaping, and suggested that some “educational” trees such as persimmon be included. Guarino proposed that the commission write a letter to the Carlisle School regarding native plants. Brownrigg said that most of the plants on the plan appeared to be native plants, but might not be those recommended by Tallemey. Guarino agreed to write a letter to the School Building Committee.

FY 2012 Budget Discussion - Willard distributed two spreadsheets, one showing yearly expenses from the General Fund and two revolving accounts beginning in FY00-01 and the other showing ConsCom budgets for FY08 - FY12. Willard's analysis shows that the FY12 budget will be short by ~\$2000 assuming no additional funds from the revolving accounts. The commission has been asked by FinCom to consider whether it would agree to funding the commission budget entirely from the General Fund, with income from the revolving accounts going into the General Fund. Burn said that in his opinion, funds from the revolving accounts are too variable to be used as a source of funds to run the department. Brown stated that, in his opinion, the commission needs to justify the Assistant Administrator position, and that the funds allocated for maintaining conservation lands are too low. The commission agreed to review Willard's budget numbers for discussion at the next meeting.

At 10:10 PM, Brownrigg moved to adjourn, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

Document Register

1. Photographs of 480 South St for file #125-0841
2. Two (2) Spreadsheets ConsCom Revolving Expenses, FY2000-2011 and Combined General Fund and Revolving Accounts, all for FY2001 through 2011.
3. Cub Scout Rockets (Photograph)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 1/12/12.