

Cranberry Bog Working Group
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2021 via Zoom

Minutes amended and approved for submission 3.15.2021
Prepared by Susan Provenzano. Formatted and submitted by Melinda Lindquist

Members Present: Ken Belitz, Melinda Lindquist, Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Helen Young
Members Absent: Luke Ascolillo
Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard
Public: Warren Lyman, Mark Duffy, Iva Mooney, John Ballentine, Emily Smith of the Carlisle Mosquito

Meeting commenced at 7:08 pm with Belitz conducting a roll call and reading meeting rules designated by the Commonwealth.

The first action was the review of the last meetings minutes. There were no changes and the minutes received unanimous approval.

Next Parra reported on the progress of the Request for Proposal (RFP). RFP was distributed at the beginning of January to four people, who were chosen because Parra and Dan Wells felt they would make an appropriate proposal and not go overboard. The candidates were Mike Derosa of DeRosa Environmental Consulting, Chris Polatin of Polatin Ecological Services, David Prickard Of Vanasse Hangen Brustin, Inc., and Marianne Depinto Both Pickard and Depinto have expressed interest. Due to the delay sending the RFP out the due date was changed to February 15. No responses have been received at the time of this meeting. Willard called each candidate last Friday. DeRosa initially thought the bog was too far away, but then expressed interest. The next step would be to meet after February 15 to discuss the proposals. No meeting had been scheduled yet, so need to set one. Group agreed on February 22nd at 7 pm via Zoom. Parra mentioned that some candidates may want a site visit and would someone from the group be available to accompany the person. Parra also mentioned that a more detailed proposal would be due by April 15th. Belitz asked public if they had any questions and there were none.

The meeting moved on to the timeline of public meetings and preparation for Town meeting. Lindquist felt that once there was a plan CBWG would have a town wide zoom to present and discuss the plan. No need for any public meetings prior to having the proposals. Willard asked if the public meetings would be separate from the Notice of Intent (NOI). Willard thought the best action order would be to get the management plan, then get public input, maybe make changes, and then the NOI, which probably wouldn't happen until May. Lindquist mentioned that the Mosquito would have brief article on this meeting since there was a reporter present, so that would keep the public in to loop. Parra offered to write a letter telling town what was happening with the group and mention that Duffy is currently maintaining the bog. Willard said that maintenance costs would be needed before NOI. Willard was in a recent Fin Com meeting to include money to deal with invasive plants, so they don't get out of control. She felt they may need second NOI to deal with Phragmites at the bog. At this time Cons Com uses \$1500 for Towle but will try to increase that to \$5k to include Towle and Bog. A motion was put forward to recommend that Conscom increase the funds from \$1.5K to \$5K for Phragmites

treatment so the Bog can be included in treatment. Lindquist moved and Young seconded this motion. The motion was approved 5:0 as follows: Belitz: aye; Lindquist: aye; Parra: aye; Provenzano: aye; Young: aye. In addition, Concom is putting more money in for maintenance. Money is being budgeted to make repairs to Cranberry Bog Dam #1. Willard mentioned that at some point the Office of Dam safety will come to inspect it (5yrs). Beltiz again asked public for questions and there were none.

This year's annual report for Cranberry Growers was sent to Duffy, but he declined signing it. The purpose of the report is to certify that a cranberry grower is conducting cranberry activities at the Bog. Duffy is no longer a grower so he doesn't feel comfortable signing the report. Lindquist asked the implications of this and Willard replied it had to do with the State's water program (Water Management Act) saying that we are using the water for cranberry growing. Lindquist said the Bog is being kept cranberry ready. Last year of production was 2016 though no crop was produced due to drought. Belitz wondered about the due date, which is March 1, 2021. Young asked about the implications of not returning it, and what does it mean to be Cranberry ready? Parra offered to look at the document.

Next Lindquist read Ballentine's question from the chat log about the Bog House. Is it part of the maintenance agreement with the farmer? What will happen to the Bog House? Currently the Bog House is part of the maintenance agreement. Willard will follow up. The future of the Bog House will be determined in part by what happens at the bog. Parra hopes it will be part of a new overall maintenance agreement.

The final topic was the Order of Mass Dam Safety on Curve St dam. Willard reported on a preliminary report, but she has not had a chance to read it. Lindquist read the report and inspected the dam. She thinks it does need some cement to shore up the stonework and a load of fill. Willard mentioned that there are wetland flags to delineate an area to make repairs on the culvert. Some company got a grant to make repairs. The group expressed confusion over why town hadn't been notified. Willard is not sure if the repairs by this company will address the issues expressed in the report by Office of Dam Safety.

Open discussion: Mooney informed the group that the Chelmsford Cons Com has a new trail map that shows the east, west, and center trails on their part of the Bog land. She also mentioned that Chelmsford is also waiting until Carlisle's bog plan to become more formalized before doing much on their side. Willard mentioned she had talked with Dave McLachlan.

Lindquist asked about Rec Com's interest in skating. Rec Com has decided to hold off from that for now. There is some informal skating behind CB Dam #1. Willard doing research into liability issues, but believes it is personal risk.

Next meeting was again confirmed to be on Monday February 22nd at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm