

Members present: Ken Belitz, Melinda Lindquist, Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano,  
Helen Young  
Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard  
Public: Warren Lyman, Iva Mooney, Dana Smith  
Meeting began 7pm

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The last meeting minutes had not been distributed, so there was no vote on them.

Parra gave a summary of meeting with selectmen regarding warrant article money for the notice of intent to prepare a long term maintenance plan. The essence of plan would be to keep out invasive plants, keep trees down, and determine what needs to be done to maintain the property. Then can propose a warrant article for money.

Stephanie Koch did get reply regarding Blanding's Turtles. There would not be surplus Blanding's Turtles introduced at the bog.

Belitz indicated that a Selectperson suggested there might be a Town Meeting in the Fall which would give another opportunity to get more information and support from the Town. Also maybe present a plan.

Willard talked with National Heritage and asked why rare species area had been dropped. Person was unsure as the last sighting was not that long ago.

Young presented updated survey information. Total number of surveys 206 (191 are paper. 15 are online). 95 are Carlisle residents and 110 Non-resident. Some highlight stats: 142 responders were Dog walkers. Open vistas were the top preservation option with dog access/walking second. Agriculture had 71 responses. Majority of people indicated that they would contribute to a bog fund (172 yes and 15 no). Survey will be adjusted to clarify that agriculture can only be hay, not cranberries. At this point then all future surveys will have to be separated out because of the change. More paper survey's will be placed at the bog by Belitz. The survey is now online as a Google form.

Belitz commented that wet hay is not profitable. Provenzano emphasized that hay is more valuable than the monetary values stated, because farmer has control over quality. In addition, the costs of time and transport would make purchased hay more expensive. Parra and Belitz were concerned that Duffy wouldn't commit to anything long term and might just walk away from the bog. Provenzano and Lindquist didn't agree. Need clarification from Duffy.

Annual report changes from Willard and Belitz were accepted.

Public outreach meeting is scheduled for March 4th in Clark Room at 7 pm. Town meeting April 27. Next public meeting beginning of April 1<sup>st</sup>. When talking about options to the public each meeting must emphasize and explain why cranberries farming is not a viable option. Then also must explain water rights: that it's not just an agricultural issue, but a town issue as Chelmsford is trying to establish new wells. Belitz can explain surface water over well water. The uncertainty is the low flow downstream and

how will that be impacted by Chelmsford taking more water. Under the agriculture/hay proposal, the water rights wouldn't be lost, but reduced significantly. Lyman commented that the lowest seven day flow out of the bog was zero. Then Lyman gave an update on the Barnes Terrace wells. To establish these wells Chelmsford has to go through the MEPA process. Chelmsford's last form and proposal was submitted in October 1999. Carlisle didn't get a copy and so missed the review process and therefore an EIR was not required. Carlisle responded later and got legal involved and Chelmsford stopped pursuing the water rights. In July 2019 Chelmsford initiated the water rights process again. Warren feels that before Chelmsford goes for a design plan that Carlisle must put them on notice that they must do the MEPA process again. Parra thinks that for Chelmsford MEPA is oversight to see if there would be a litigation problem. Belitz feels that a proposal of this size would require them to show no harm downstream. Warren feels Carlisle should send a letter notifying that Carlisle would be effected and keep a watch over Chelmsford's actions and force Chelmsford to prove that there would not be any downstream impact.

Lindquist reemphasized that at public presentations the group should say that there may be some impact on water rights but don't know just what that would be. Need to emphasize that water rights are not really related to the bog, but is more an issue the selectmen need to deal with.

Chelmsford is subjected to inter-waterway rules about drawing water across town lines and Chelmsford hasn't done that. Parra asked what Chelmsford has done, which was to allocate funds to do a site survey. They haven't submitted an ENR yet. Belitz commented that Chelmsford water district raised rates and has surplus money and may do this just to justify the money they have collected. Parra sent a memo to selectmen to review Lyman's letter and asked them to send something to Chelmsford asking about the status of the project. Parra said to send all material to Town Counsel. Also send emails from MEPA. Belitz met with Chelmsford water manager and said they would keep each other posted to developments, so he would notify them. Lyman would prefer side work without Town Counsel. Lyman also feels Chelmsford has an article 97 issue with converting the conservation land for other use. Carlisle will emphasize that Chelmsford wells will affect conditions downstream, but Chelmsford will have to prove no harm. Willard and Lyman then discussed letter details.

Willard sent in annual cranberry report and believes that in June it will be time to renew the water rights for the next ten years. Current rights expire on December 2020. Belitz feels that the water rights will renew without issue.

For public presentations we have a cranberry harvesting paper (Lyman), survey information on one page (Young), and water rights on one page (Belitz). Young will write a short article for the Mosquito and Willard will put out a press release. Summary of work so far will be PowerPoint presentation and notes. Willard asked about taking input from public.

Young said the next ConsCom meeting will be on Feb 27 and we can report on the preparations for the public meeting.

Mooney asked about the special town meeting in the fall.

Meeting ended 8:50 pm