

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2021**  
**Via teleconference - 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tom Brownrigg, Dwight DeMay, Debby Geltner, Warren Lyman, Rhonda Michaud, and Andrew Wilmot. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was also present.

Guests: Steve Tobin, Nick Ognibene, Juniper, Christina C.

This meeting was conducted by Zoom teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with all participants at home. The meeting was opened at 7:01 PM by Chairman DeMay.

The January 12 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

**New Business**

1. Memorials on Conservation Lands

Steve Tobin of the Trails Committee was present to discuss a proposed memorial bench at the Towle Land. The bench would be in memory of the Shaw family's 9 year old son. The bench would be a standard Trails Committee bench with an inscription that reads: "Dedicated to William Wolfgang Shaw, who loved to bike and hike these trails with his family and friends." The proposed location is near the trail intersection T8 as shown in the Trails in Carlisle booklet, and near a large boulder.

DeMay said that there are two issues, namely the specific request for Towle Land, and the general issue of whether to permit memorial benches on conservation lands. He recommended that the discussion be restricted to the present request, and to address the more general issue at a later date.

Lyman said that the proposed location of the bench was previously supported by LSC, and that he personally approves of this proposal. Brownrigg also supported the proposal but noted that there might be Pink Lady Slipper orchids growing along the trail; he recommended that the Trails Committee inspect the proposed area prior to placing a bench. Geltner said that she was very appreciative of the benches, and asked if the bench could include a foot rest. Tobin said that they have included foot rests for some benches, including the bench at Towle Field, and that this seems to help prevent erosion.

After discussion, Lyman moved that LSC recommend that ConsCom approve the Shaw family's request for a memorial bench, and all members voted in favor.

2. Potential New Member: Nick Ognibene

Nick Ognibene and his family moved to Carlisle from Cambridge last October; they live at the end of Hartwell Rd. He is a lawyer (environmental law) and grew up in Dover. He enjoys the outdoors and is interested in joining LSC. Willard said that he should send a letter of interest to the Select Board, along with a brief Curriculum Vitae. Nick said that since they live near the Bisbee and Benfield Lands, he would be particularly interested in keeping an eye on these properties. LSC members thanked Nick for his interest in joining the committee.

### 3. Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG)

Willard said that the CBWG has received one proposal for managing the bog as wildlife habitat, and will discuss this proposal at their February 22 meeting. The bidder selected will prepare a management plan, and after the plan is written the CBWG will schedule a public meeting.

## **Old Business**

### 1. ConsCom update on LSC activities on 1/28/21

DeMay, Lyman and Brownrigg attended the January 28 ConsCom meeting, at which DeMay and Lyman gave a brief overview of current LSC activities. Afterwards, Chair Lee Tatistcheff asked if LSC has specific people assigned to monitor particular conservation lands. Lyman said that this was true years ago when LSC had more members, but has fewer members today. He said having more members would enable the committee to continue Baseline Assessments and Management Plans for newer acquisitions such as Woodward and Russell Lands. After the discussion, ConsCom members expressed their appreciation of LSC's efforts in monitoring conservation lands.

### 2. Proposal by Judy Asarkof

Asarkof has submitted her native plant and pollinator proposal for Towle Field and Woodward Land to ConsCom, and will attend the February 18 meeting for the discussion. There was no additional discussion at the LSC meeting.

### 3. Signs on Town-Owned Conservation Lands

Lyman said that there has been no action since the last meeting. Since the sign purchase would not occur until after approval at the spring 2022 meeting, he will provide more current cost estimates later.

### 4. Fox Hill Nursery Plants

Willard spoke with ConsCom member Angie Verge regarding the six American Hornbeam trees in the west field. Verge said that since the trees are close together, their root systems are probably intertwined, and would probably not survive replanting. DeMay suggested that a single tree that seems healthiest be saved and the others removed.

### 5. Conservation Land Maintenance Planning: Field Edges

Prior to the meeting Lyman sent his updated report showing conservation land fields for which a commercial entity did edge clearing. He used Google Earth to estimate distances, and provided a more accurate estimate of cost per linear foot. He asked members to read the report and contact him if there are errors or questions. Afterward he will submit a final version, but would like to have Willard's comments before doing so. Willard said that she will be very busy until March 12, when a grant proposal to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Greenough dam repair and construction is due.

## 6. Farm License Agreement Terms

Willard said that she sent out the license agreement forms to farmers that use conservation land fields. Farmers will provide information on their use of the fields last year, and their plans for this year. Most fields are used by Mark Duffy, but Dick Shohet uses the fields at Fox Hill. Geltner asked about Judy Asarkof's interest in using the Woodward Land fields, for which Desiree Ball has a license for grazing. Willard noted that there has not been a Baseline Assessment or Management Plan written for the Woodward Land, and that sometime this spring another 32-33 acres will be added as part of the new Woodward development. Willard said that Ball did not use the Woodward Land for grazing last year. Willard said that once the additional Woodward land has been transferred to the town, she will schedule a walk of the property, which will include a trail connection to Great Meadows NWR.

Regarding Fox Hill, Brownrigg expressed an interest in doing a plant survey of the west field this year and asked Willard if this would be possible. Willard suggested he contact Dick Shohet, who holds the farming license for the Fox Hill fields.

## 7. LSC Annual Report

Wilmot sent members a draft report prior to the meeting. All thought it was well written and suggested a few edits. Wilmot will make these edits and send the final version for review. The report is due March 5.

## 8. Curve Street Dam

The evaluation/inspection report by Weston & Sampson Engineers has been sent to ConsCom. Willard compared the report to a similar report in 2015, and has provided a summary of her findings to Tim Goddard. The Town of Carlisle's DPW is now responsible for dam maintenance, rather than Mark Duffy. She estimated a cost of \$40,000 to correct the deficiencies noted in the report.

The more important question is to whether repair the dam, or to remove the upstream culvert and flume that Duffy installed, which would end its classification as a dam. This issue is being studied by the Cranberry Bog Working Group. Willard noted that decommissioning the dam would also be expensive.

## **Next Meetings:**

March 16, 2021 @ 7 PM

April 13, 2012 @ 7 PM

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Land Stewardship Committee 2020 Annual Report (draft 2/14/21), A. Wilmot
- Field Maintenance Reports + Attachments (draft 2/16/21), W. Lyman

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 3/16/21