

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
**May 11, 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: Roy Herald and Judy Asarkof

This meeting was conducted by Zoom teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with all participants at home. The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Chair DeMay.

The April 13 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

**New Business**

1. Woodward Land Management

Roy Herald and Judy Asarkof were present for a discussion of the Woodward Land. Herald said he is knowledgeable about plants and interested in how these are managed. He is particularly concerned about the number of invasive plants at Woodward, and mentioned oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, and Norway maple. Willard noted that black swallow-wort is also present. Herald said that bittersweet is especially heavy along the east side of the field (near Maple St.) and has entered wetlands. He asked that LSC develop a plan to remove and control invasive plants.

Herald said that there are no spring wildflowers blooming in the field and about 90% of the plants represent only five genera. According to iNaturalist, only one bumblebee species has been reported in Carlisle, and no brown-belted bumblebee. In contrast, 47 brown-belted bumblebees have been reported in Cambridge, which Herald attributes to ornamental blooming plants.

Herald believes that plant diversity would be improved by mowing, and the field has not been mowed for a long time. There is a mat of dead grass 5-6 inches thick in the meadow that discourages more flowering plants. He recommends that the field be mowed this fall. If it is not mowed, this will only encourage more goldenrods.

Willard asked that Herald provide her with a list of invasive plants at Woodward. She also asked Herald how bittersweet along the field edges could be removed, and Herald said the fencing would have to be removed first. He also said that when Judy Asarkof was keeping sheep in the upper field, she deliberately allowed bittersweet to proliferate along the fencing. Asarkof joined the discussion, and said that she previously leased the fields for many years from the Woodward family for grazing sheep, and grazing resulted in a monoculture of grasses. She

said Herald was correct about the large number of invasives. She did not try to remove bittersweet along fencing because it helped prevent coyotes from entering the field to get to the sheep. Her interests have since changed, and she is now interested in removing invasive plants and promoting native plants.

After the town acquired the land from the Woodward family, Desiree Ball obtained a three-year license for grazing goats, but did not use the fields for this purpose last year for various reasons. Asarkof now holds a three-year license for the field, and would like to use Nigerian goats to help remove invasive plants. She has been working with Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) "weed warriors" to understand management options, and has also met with Steve Tobin of the Trails Committee regarding placement of trails. She plans to use goats to control invasive plants along fence edges and use the services of a local mower. Geltner asked Asarkof if she plans to do soil tests. Asarkof has worked with NOFA (?) and will do soil tests if this seems useful.

Willard requested that Asarkof report periodically to LSC on her progress, perhaps once a month. Asarkof agreed to do this, and said that she is keeping a daily journal of her activities at Woodward. Geltner asked about the use of herbicides at Woodward, which might be required in some cases. Willard said that ConsCom has funds for a licensed applicator (the same person who treated poison ivy at Towle Field) to continue treatments at other conservation lands, including phragmites at the Cranberry Bog. Willard noted that the Woodward Land has a conservation restriction (with CCF as grantee) and this should be checked regarding use of herbicides; she also thought herbicides might be a problem for grazing animals.

Lyman requested that Asarkof host an LSC visit to the Woodward Land. Asarkof agreed to this, and said she would try to have goats present. LSC members thanked Asarkof and Herald for attending the meeting and their inputs.

## 2. OS&RP - ADA Access Self-Evaluation and Compliance

Willard earlier sent LSC members Table 11 (Accessibility of Conservation and Recreation Lands in Carlisle) from the draft OS&RP for review and comment. Willard said that the OS&RP Committee will meet on May 13 to approve the draft plan. She noted that the table indicates that work will be completed in Fiscal Year 2022-2023, but no funds will have been approved for ADA-related work by that time. Willard said that two members of the ADA community made recommendations regarding table entries.

Lyman said that the table has many recommended actions, but that there is no prioritization. He suggested the committee select one action that could be accomplished, given the lack of funding. Willard said that creating handicapped parking places with signs should be done, since these are required by law. Geltner noted that most conservation lands are not appropriate for handicapped access, except for the Cranberry Bog. DeMay said that improvements in ADA access can be done in a staged manner over time, given budget limitations.

Willard will speak to the person who produced the table and request a list of priorities.

## 3. Statewide Mosquito Control Procedures

Lyman had sent a letter to the editor of the Carlisle Mosquito ("Opting out of mosquito spraying", May 7, 2021) regarding a state law that allows private citizens to request that their properties not be sprayed for mosquitos. However, the state can deny the request under certain circumstances. Lyman said that town conservation lands could not be exempted from mosquito spraying. Geltner was not pleased with the law and suggested that people contact their legislators to voice their concern.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Greenough Dam Repair Update**

Willard said that the proposal to CPC for funding the Greenough dam repair has been approved, although the Planning Board CPC representative was not in favor of the proposal. The proposal asks for \$500,000, which would be combined with \$250,000 from CPC funds approved last year. If funding is approved, one spillway will be replaced with three spillways. A CPC member asked what it would cost to remove the dam. Willard thought it would be very expensive, but did not have a cost estimate at this time. She said that the Trails Committee had voted to support the project at Town Meeting (June 6), and asked if LSC would like to make a statement.

Lyman moved that LSC support ConsCom's request for \$750,000 from CPA funds for Greenough dam repair and restoration be approved at the next Town Meeting. Wilmot seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. DeMay plans to attend the meeting and speak in support of the request.

### **2. Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG) Update**

Lyman said that the CBWG will give a summary at the next ConsCom meeting on May 13 at 8 PM. The CBWG has accepted MaryAnn DiPinto's plan (sent by Lyman to LSC members previously) for restoration of the bog, with an annual cost estimated at \$15,000-\$25,000. Lyman is concerned that there is no management plan as to how it would be managed, and by whom, and that this needs more thought.

### **3. Towle Land Observations by Hurley**

Lyman raised the question of how to proceed with Hurley's report. He thought it was a very good report, and should be forwarded to ConsCom with Hurley's permission. He asked that LSC provide a summary of the report, to be discussed at the next meeting, and then send this to ConsCom. Geltner volunteered to write the summary, and Brownrigg will provide comments to Geltner.

## **Next Meetings:**

June 15, 2021 @ 7 PM

July 13, 2012 @ 7 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 6/15/21