

**Carlisle Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
June 4, 2020**

Consistent with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place due to the outbreak of COVID-19, this meeting of the Carlisle Conservation Commission was conducted via remote participation.

**(Virtual Meeting Zoom ID 819 8914 2645)**

**7:04 p.m. Confirming Member Access:** Chair Dan Wells (with assistance from his daughter Vivian) conducted a roll call vote to confirm all members and, staff were present: Lee Tatistcheff – aye; Ken Belitz – aye; Helen Young – aye; Alex Parra – aye; Navneet Hundal – aye; Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard – aye; Administrative Assistant Mary Hopkins – aye. Vice Chair Angie Verge was not present.

**Chair Wells - Introduction to Remote Meeting:** In order to mitigate the transmission of the virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspended the requirement of Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and have been encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which is posted on the Town's website, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment. For this meeting, the Conservation Commission is convening by Zoom conference as posted on the Town's website identifying how the public may join. Please note that this meeting is being recorded. Accordingly, please be aware that other participants may be able to hear you and anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording. All participants should keep their phones muted unless recognized by the Chair to reduce background noise and feedback. All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body can be made available on upon request. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda unless the Chair noted otherwise." Wells concluded with a review of the meeting ground rules to allow for effective and clear conduct of the Commission's business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

**Bills Approval:**

*On a motion made by Tatistcheff and seconded by Parra, it was unanimously voted to approve the bills as presented by the Administrator: \$60 Carlisle Rubbish for May Foss Farm and Cranberry Bog pickups; \$42.21 Staples for the purchase of Carlisle Trail sign laminating sleeves; Payroll week ending June 5, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Tatistcheff – Aye; Parra – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

**BOS request for recommendations to the Deer Control Committee's (DCC) proposed Bow Hunting Program revisions to the Bow Hunting Program on town lands and whether to continue or suspend the program:** Parra presented a revised response memo based on discussions at the Commission's previous meeting.

Wells opened the discussion for public comment. Kristina (full name unknown) asked if there have been any site visits and documentation of the areas around and near the tree stands before and following either of the two past hunting seasons. Parra confirmed site visits are conducted at the beginning and end of the hunting season to ensure stands are located in the designated locations and to confirm they have been installed without creating damage. Kristina clarified she was referring to the impact of the hunters' presence on the land. She then asked the Commission to consider the source of

the information that the DCC has provided and by default the Commission is relying on regarding the pilot hunting program, which is Mass Wildlife, an organization who's funding relies heavily on the revenue of hunting. She stated numerous experts, after rigorous scientific studies, conclude that bow hunting is ineffective in controlling deer populations. She said the suggestion that a Carlisle specific scientific study is needed to determine if there is a deer overpopulation problem has been dismissed. She recalled from a recent meeting Chair Wells said he observed fewer birds and less varied plant life, and if deer were the cause, that would warrant support for the hunting program. She pointed out that scientific studies have shown pesticides have done serious damage to bird populations and climate change and invasive species have also contributed to the decline of biodiversity.

Kay Hurley of School Street commented that, with regard to the antlerless deer permit, the DCC regulations include a clause that states... "hunters are encouraged to obtain antlerless deer permits and to harvest antlerless deer". She said she had requested details on the nature of the encouragement at last year's DCC public input session, because whatever it is, it is not working, but none was provided. She said she is aware of other towns where the encouragement is clear, and she believes Carlisle's encouragement is invisible.

Young agreed the DCC should consider including a requirement with regard to doe permits. Parra said it was his opinion that it is appropriate for the Commission to say they would like the DCC to examine the possibilities to determine if there is a methodology to further encourage the taking of does. Belitz said he would recommend the DCC develop a stronger position on the taking of does vs bucks. Tatistcheff said she was of the opinion this is a matter to be decided by the DCC, noting the Commission is not being asked to make recommendations, they are being asked only whether they do or do not support continuing the program.

The Commission then discussed and voted upon several proposed modifications proposed by Belitz. *On a motion made by Tatistcheff and seconded by Hundal, it was unanimously voted to accept the response incorporating edits as discussed. Roll Call Vote: Tatistcheff – Aye; Parra – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

**Carlisle Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2020 revision:** The Commission continued their in-depth review of the 7-Year Action Plan as previously revised based on an initial review undertaken in December 2019.

Wells opened the discussion for public comment.

Kay Hurley said she is interested in the Plant and Wildlife Inventory section of the report, particularly in light of all the concern about understory and biodiversity in general. She said she believes the OS&R provides a 7-year window and framework within which to gather and formalize the town's knowledge of these things and said she thinks this should be one of the high-priority initiatives named in the 7-year plan. She noted the BOS has indicated a formal study is not feasible due to perceived costs, although she is not aware of any formal proposals. She said the town has a number of "citizen scientists", data on birds and plants, and an effective outreach plan by CCF, noting the current data is disjointed and incomplete, but it is way more than nothing. She suggested, with some leadership from an official town board such as the Conservation Commission, this is an opportunity for the town to come up with an understanding about the town's biodiversity in a way that would support a lot of town decisions with very little cost. She generously offered to undertake a decent share of the work to make this happen.

Parra said he thought this was a terrific suggestion, but he believes this belongs under developing a Conservation Land Management Program. He noted the town has spent a lot of money with the remarkable achievement of conserving very large areas of land, yet other than the Trails Committee doing what they do, there is virtually no management of land. He said he thinks it is incumbent on a landowner to manage that land.

Hurley said she thinks it belongs under plant wildlife inventory, since management is often a euphemism for interference. She said she believes the town likely needs more restraint and less management, at least until there is a better understanding, then land management decisions can be made based on that information.

The Commission thanked Hurley for her input and invited her to submit a proposal for language to be considered for incorporation into the revised plan. Willard will incorporate the Commission's revisions and the final document will be reviewed at the next meeting.

*8:54 p.m. On a motion made by Tatistcheff and seconded by Hundal, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. approve the bills as presented by the Administrator: Roll Call Vote: Tatistcheff – Aye; Parra – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hopkins  
Administrative Assistant

**All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body can be made available on upon request**

