

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting
June 13, 2023
7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Judy Asarkof, Tom Brownrigg, Julie Durrell, Warren Lyman, Rhonda Michaud, Claudia Talland, and Shane Usher. Dwight DeMay and Debbie Geltner were absent. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was present.

Guest: Adam Chojnacki

The meeting was held at Town Hall, the committee's first in-person meeting there since February 2020. Co-Chair Lyman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The May 16, 2023, minutes were approved as amended.

1. New LSC member status: Adam Chojnacki

Lyman said that the Select Board is expected to appoint Adam Chojnacki to LSC at their meeting tonight.

2. Election of Chair (or Co-Chairs) and Secretary

Lyman said that he will not continue as Co-Chair next year. He nominated current Co-Chair Michaud and Asarkof as Co-Chairs. Both were agreeable to these appointments. Talland moved that Michaud and Asarkof be appointed Co-Chairs, Brownrigg seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Talland volunteered to serve as Secretary.

Brownrigg said that he will resign from LSC at the end of June, having served since 2017.

3. Stewardship Program

Lyman said that signs and kiosks tend to be obstructed by vegetation over time, and asked people to remove problematic growth. He also asked members to think about projects that will need funding next year. Since LSC has no budget and obtains funding through ConsCom, Lyman suggested that LSC consider grant opportunities. Willard mentioned the Fields Pond Foundation, from which Louise Hara has obtained Trails Committee funding.

Asarkof said that the parking area near the trail entrance at Foss Farm continues to erode downhill into the sandplain grassland habitat and could cause damage. After discussion, Willard thought that the parking area should be re-graded so that it slopes away from the field. She will contact the DPW regarding this; she said that the new DPW supervisor is very responsive.

Lyman said that the kiosk at Malcolm Meadows has been removed, for reasons not known. Willard said that the kiosk is owned by The Trustees, the organization that holds the conservation restriction. Lyman said that repairs or purchase of kiosks should be decided by August for possible funding at fall Town Meeting.

Usher said that he recently visited Carlisle Pines State Forest, and saw an old deer stand in one of the ancient white pines. The tree trunk was growing around the stand and causing damage to the tree. Willard said that she will contact Park Supervisor John Aziz and bring this to his attention.

4. Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG)

Lyman attended the June 12 meeting and sent a summary to LSC members before the meeting. He said that the most important issue is that there will be a delay of repairs to Cranberry Bog Dam #1. Willard said that the delay is because some people do not approve of the current design, so there might be additional engineering changes. Willard is trying to arrange a meeting of Bog-interested Carlisle committee members with the Chelmsford ConsCom soon.

5. Metal Detecting on Town Conservation Land - Discussion

Michaud and Willard have seen recent metal detecting activity on the Hutchins Field, which has led to some concerns. Willard said that several years ago a man from Bedford had been metal detecting on this field and had agreed to donate his findings to the Carlisle Historical Society (CHS), which he has done. The policy now in place for metal detecting on conservation land is that the person obtains a permit and donates all found objects to the CHS. Recently, however, two other people have been granted a permit but have not contacted the CHS. Willard has tried to confront these people but has not been successful.

Lyman said that the state and some towns have regulations regarding metal detecting on conservation land. Michaud said that Concord prohibits this activity on their conservation lands. After discussion, Talland volunteered to review policies or regulations for metal detection used by the state and other towns. Willard said that in the case of drones on Carlisle conservation lands, the applicant must demonstrate that it is for a specific project requiring a drone.

6. Russell Land: review of draft Baseline Assessment

Prior to the meeting Lyman sent members a revised draft of the Russel Street Conservation Land Baseline Assessment. After discussion, Brownrigg moved that LSC send the report to ConsCom. Talland seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Lyman is hoping that there will be a two-car parking area available off Russell St. and plans to speak with ConsCom about this.

7. Towle Field

Michaud said that she has laminated signs for the Towle Land kiosk and will install them soon.

Usher suggested having a small grove of native trees within Towle field. Asarkof thought that this was a good idea and will discuss this with Geltner.

Regarding invasive plants, Willard received a quote from Maddie Kiczewski to remove poison ivy (PI) from the main field and the west field. The cost was approximately \$3000 and Willard thought this was expensive; she plans to obtain estimates from two other sources which provide herbicide treatment (correct?). There is a lot of PI in the west field, mostly near the stone wall.

Asarkof said that she was not happy with the signage used by John Bakewell when he treated the field with herbicide. He did not post signs on the actual days he was treating, and Asarkof thought he should have done so. She asked that if others do herbiciding, they must put up public notices on the days they are treating.

8. Foss Farm

There was no discussion of a revised proposal to protect sandplain grassland habitat. Asarkof prepared a draft of possible kiosk materials for discussion at the meeting. Materials included a brief history of the property, a map of Foss Farm trails and trail connections to adjacent parcels, and photos of plants and animals that might be seen. She asked members to send comments.

9. Invasive Plan(s) for major conservation areas. There was no discussion.

10 Bog House – Inspection of current use.

Lyman said that an inspection is scheduled for June 14. In addition to LSC, representatives from the Municipal Facilities Committee and Cranberry Bog Working Group will attend, as will the Town Administrator and the Fire Department. A report will be prepared.

11. Other

Both Geltner and DeMay stated to Lyman that they will continue as members. Michaud moved that ConsCom and the Select Board reappoint Geltner and DeMay to three-year terms. Talland seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Documents discussed at the meeting:

- W. Lyman, “Baseline Assessment for the Russell Street Conservation Land, June 2023”
- J. Asarkof, information for possible use in the Foss Farm kiosk, June 13,2023

Next Meetings:

July 18, 2023 @ 7 PM

August 8, 2023 (tentative date)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 7/18/23