

OS&RPC Meeting Minutes 2 on 2020 01 08 (Approved February 6, 2020)

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee for 2020 was held on 8 January 2020 in the Heald Room, Town Hall, Carlisle, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order at 3:17 pm. Present were Committee Members David Freedman, Debby Geltner, Rhonda Michaud, Amy Smack, Sally Zielinski, and Mary Zoll. Absent was Steve Hinton. Also present were Sylvia Willard, Conservation Administrator, Town of Carlisle, Marc Lamere, Chair, Trails Committee, and currently an unappointed Committee member, Town of Carlisle, and Madeleine Blake, liaison from the Planning Board, Town of Carlisle.

David went through the agenda.

David asked Sylvia, for future meetings, to print three copies of the paperwork he sends by e-mail before each meeting for David, Sylvia, and Mary. The other committee members chose to print copies themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 6 February 2020 at 3:15. Sylvia will reserve the Heald Room if it is available.

Coordination with the Master Plan process was discussed. David reported on a conference call that he was part of, along with Marc Lamere, Andrew Rogers from the Agricultural Commission, Debbie Bentley from the Energy Task Force, Warren Lyman from the Land Stewardship Committee, Kelly Guarino from the Carlisle Conservation Foundation, and other people interested in conservation. Andrew said preserving agriculture in Carlisle is important, not only for the value of local, sustainable food production, but also for the value of having agriculture in the community. Warren was concerned about water resources. Kelly said that Carlisle has the potential to be a conservation resource for the area; if Carlisle does what it does well, preserving open space, then Carlisle becomes a conservation and recreation resource for surrounding towns, especially those towns that are more highly developed than is Carlisle.

The Cranberry Bog Working Group has left a survey about the bog at the bog. So far, the people who know about this survey seem to be primarily the people who walk at the bog, and they are mostly from out of town. Sylvia will suggest to the group more publicity to make other people aware of the survey.

Madeleine Blake who serves on the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) reported that, 75% of the people responding to the initial MP survey said that the schools in Carlisle were key to their decision to live in Carlisle, and 75% of people responding said that open space and natural resources in town were key.

Susan Silberberg from Civic Moxie said that Civic Moxie was open to receiving suggested questions in case they decide to do another survey. The Committee discussed slight changes to the questions to be included in the Master Planning survey, if there is one. David will send those questions to CivicMoxie and the MPSC.

The Committee discussed the ranking criteria. Amy had discussed the Active Recreation ranking criterion with Mark Spears from the Recreation Commission (RecCom) and David followed up with

Drew McMorrow (Chair of RecCom). David said the view of RecCom has been that only Banta-Davis and Spalding are useful for playing fields because, for fields in other locations around town, the maintenance costs are prohibitive. It is possible, however, that a piece of property might become available that was perfect for something other than playing fields, such as tennis courts, and that would not require the same kind of grounds maintenance that the playing fields require.

David discussed reasons for deciding to eliminate the different weighting of different criteria, and the Committee agreed to eliminate the weighting. The parcels will be ranked from 1 to 4 for each criterion. The parcels on the list of parcels to be ranked are ordered by map number, parcel number, and lot number, as indicated in the right-most column, so the parcels are ordered roughly by proximity to each other. Marc suggested listing the ranking criteria in alphabetical order, alphabetical by the two-letter abbreviation used in the column heads.

The dates for the two ranking sessions were settled as Wednesday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 24, both at 7 pm, in Town Hall. Sylvia will reserve the Clark Room if it is available. David will contact some of the key people in town knowledgeable about various parcels of land and conservation issues and urge them to put these two dates on their calendars and attend the ranking sessions.

The last column on David's list of parcels, a column that did not print on the copies he distributed, is LUC, which stands for Land Use Code, a set of state and local codes that describes the use of each parcel from an assessor's viewpoint.

David gave background and a general discussion of the value of the OS&RP, Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B, the town's first right of refusal when a property came on the market, and how all the moving pieces fit together. The discussion was helpful for the members of the Committee who had not been through this process before.

David did send letters to the boards and committees, plus Christa Collins at Sudbury Valley Trustees and John Aziz at Great Brook Farm State Park asking for 7-year action plans to be provided by the end of February. The Historical Commission asked David to attend its next meeting January 15 to give further guidelines as to what this Committee wanted in response to our request for its 7-year action plan, and he agreed to attend.

Sylvia and Debby are planning to visit other towns for their input on regional coordination. David urged them to do those visits sooner rather than later.

Sally reported on her progress on revising Appendix D: Flora and Fauna. She said some major groups were missing from the previous list, like slime molds. Some species were in the wrong categories. She had understood from the last meeting that the current existence of all the species in Carlisle had to be verified, and David assured her that that was not true. Verification was not necessary. The possibility was discussed of adding a footnote to the species that had been seen since, for example, 2010, but the ultimate determination was left up to Sally. It was also suggested that footnotes could be added to rare or endangered species if that will make the list more useful. Sally was encouraged to limit the scope of her revision so that she could actually do it in time to complete this OS&RP by the summer.

The possibility was discussed of setting up a GoogleDocs shared document so that various people could add data to the list of species, data such as when something was seen; where it was seen; by whom; and under what conditions. Sally will ask Marc for advice about the technical aspects, how to

limit people's access so someone doesn't inadvertently erase collected data, and other practical, technical matters. Sally asked David to send her a Word document of Section 4 from the last OS&RP.

Sally assumed responsibility for the following pieces in Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis.

D: Vegetation: Wetland Vegetation and Rare Plant Species

E: Fisheries and Wildlife: Rare Animal Species

G: Environmental Challenges: Invasive Plants, Insect Pests, and Honey Bee Decline

David is doing research on native pollinators and will give Sally his findings. Debby suggested including general advice to the public on how to promote habitat for bees and other pollinators.

The Committee expected that Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses will be discussed by the Board of Health in its 7-year action plan.

David asked Sylvia to recommend people who were knowledgeable enough to revise other sections of the plan.

Madeleine Blake is the liaison with MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, a sub-region of the regional planning agency MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council)). David will send her the sections relevant to MAGIC, and she will review them at its next meeting, which is tomorrow.

Debby provided a summary of her review, with Rhonda and Sylvia, of Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest. They will proceed with a draft update of the Section. Amy will update the information in this section about Recreation facilities. Marc will provide his input on this section to Debby.

Rhonda said the section on deer is in progress. David will send the Committee Members a link to a video of a talk given in Carlisle last November by an expert who believes that bow hunting is not sufficient to control deer population. One method to reduce the deer population is to hire sharpshooters who set bait and shoot deer in large numbers.

Sylvia will write a piece on Greenough Dam, including the current status, how we got here, and hopes for the future.

Steve has got the software to update the GIS maps but has not yet been able to access it. He's working on it.

RecCom's next meeting is this week. David will send Amy the information about ADA self-evaluation of accessibility for each RecCom facility and asked that she ensure that the required forms be filled out.

Amy will be responsible for the revision of the various sections of the OS&RP on recreation with input from Holly Mansfield (Recreation Commissioner) and Drew McMorrow (Chair of RecCom). David said the point to be made to RecCom is that this revision of the OS&RP is an opportunity for RecCom to put its goals before the various boards and state agencies that read and approve the OS&RP so that RecCom is better positioned to get those goals met. RecCom should discuss the

prospect of a Community Center, perhaps in its 7-year goals and in coordination with the COA. RecCom should revise the sections of Map 8 that pertain to recreation, listing its progress on the 7-year Action Plan goals from the last OS&RP. RecCom may also wish to identify any properties that it has a special interest in or need for, even if those properties are smaller than 10 acres.

David asked the Committee Members to look at Map 5: Unique Features, to ask other knowledgeable people in town, and to revise as necessary. The Cranberry Bog, for example, is no longer the northernmost active cranberry bog in Massachusetts (alas). David will send a list in Microsoft Word of the unique features to the Committee Members.

David asked the Committee Members to identify any properties, even if smaller than 10 acres, that might be of interest for open space, recreation, easements, other conservation values, and so forth.

David described a website (NewEnglandLandscapes.org) in which Harvard Forest, with support from the National Science Foundation, presents a tool that allows users to look at projections of what a town or an area will look like in the future, starting from recent trends and extrapolating out to 2060, depending on various decisions made by local governments and citizens. David's conclusion from looking at this tool is that what the areas around Carlisle do is more important than what Carlisle itself does. He will send the link and a draft summary he has written to the Committee Members for their review and input.

Everyone on the Committee is welcome to submit revisions of any section at any time to David, who will compile the revisions into one complete draft. Everyone on the Committee will have an opportunity to read the entire draft and provide feedback or revisions. Mary will edit, and David ultimately will format the final document.

Madeleine described an initiative from the MPSC to have about 100 kitchen conversations (or dinner parties, coffees, or informal gatherings of any sort) to reach about 1,000 people. These gatherings are designed to engage participants in a conversation about questions related to the master planning process. The goal is to hold these gatherings from late January through mid-February. Barney Arnold is heading this initiative. Madeleine will send details on this initiative when it has been finalized.

Sylvia invited all the Committee Members and others present to her annual party, a trail walk in Estabrook Woods and pot-luck soup and desserts at her house, on Sunday, February 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Zoll, Clerk