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Town of Carlisle
Land Stewardship Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2026

This recorded, hybrid in-person and remote meeting of the Carlisle Land Stewardship Committee was held in the Heald room of Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, on January 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by LSC Chair Brian Murphy at 7:05 PM Eastern time.

Present: Judy Asarkof, Adam Chojnacki (remote), Julie Durrell, Warren Lyman, Brian Murphy, Sukey Provenzano (remote), Chris Spinney, Claudia Talland, Shane Usher.

Absent: Alex Parra

Guests: Jonathan DeKock (remote, CG Manager, CCF), Sylvia Willard (remote, ConsCom), Marjie Findlay (remote, AgCom), Steve Tobin (remote, CCF, Trails), Sue Pietropaolo (remote, Carlisle resident), Mark Duffy (remote, Carlisle resident and farmer)

Agenda

1. Minutes Approval: December 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Murphy asked if there were any comments. Two errors were noted, Sukey Provenzano's name had been omitted from the attendance list but she was present and there was a typo in the spelling of name **Marlies** in the motion.

Murphy moved that the December 9, 2025 LSC meeting minutes be approved with correction of the two errors noted, Lyman seconded. The minutes were approved by roll call vote. Chojnacki abstained because he did not attend the meeting.

2. Public Comment
 - A. Steve Tobin (Trails) said that he is impressed at the progress that has been made in pushing back brush at the edge of Bisbee. (Trails mows the loop around Bisbee).
 - B. Tobin also notes that there is a lot of yard waste on the Swanson Family Land dumped by the abutter. Durrell is the Steward for this property and will reach out to Tobin to learn more about this.

At this point the remote meeting was "crashed" and the recording was (temporarily) stopped.

- C. Tobin asked for a copy of the table of which steward is associated with which conservation parcel. Lyman said he would forward this.
- D. Finally Tobin asked if we can get LSC, Trails and Jim Hall of DPW together to talk about mowing trails on the CCL's. (Independently Hall has indicated to

Tobin that he needs a new mower to do this work, the cost will be \$8-10K; Provenzano wondered if CPC could/would fund this).

3. Land Use Permits

- A. Billerica walk (Marlies Henderson) new date: The actual date is going to be January 18th. And because they plan to park at Foss Farm and hike through Great Meadow no dogs will be allowed.

Lyman moved to approve this amended LUP, Durrell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote.

- B. CCF annual activities, currently scheduled: 15 walks for approximately 20 individuals arriving in approximately 10 cars, 1-2 per month on many of the CCLs. It is unknown if any animals will be present. There will be no fires.

Talland moved to approve Carlisle Conservation Foundation annual activities LUP as described above Durrell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote.

4. Liaison Reports

- A. Conservation Commission: Murphy reports that late today ConsCom received a request from the Select Board to meet with ConsCom and the LSC on 1/27/26 to talk about unspecified concerns about the LSC charter.
 - i. Lyman suggested that LSC request the opportunity to discuss these concerns among the LSC members prior to the joint meeting.

The Zoom meeting and recording restart approximately here.

- ii. Chojnacki thought that it wouldn't be collaborative for LSC to decline to go to this meeting.
- iii. Spinney thought that if stewards knew the issues on the agenda for this meeting prior to it, that would be sufficient.
- iv. Provenzano suggested that LSC meets at 7:00 PM prior to the 8:00 PM joint meeting. In that scenario LSC would request that the SB provide a packet of what is to be discussed at the joint meeting. (Provenzano also reported that the number of members on the LSC and agriculture were items that came up at the end of the recent SB meeting that she attended).
- v. Polling those present, LSC was not able to muster a quorum on the 27th.

Lyman moved that the SB provide LSC with further information about the issues to be discussed at a joint meeting with the ConsCom and the Select Board in time for LSC to discuss those issues before the joint meeting, Usher seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote. Chojnacki voted no.

- B. Friends of the Bog:

- i. The ground penetrating radar was completed and will be reported at the ConsCom meeting later this month.
- ii. Durrell reports finding a wildlife camera on the island just north of dam#1 at the Bog, it wasn't marked. In 2025 the stewards awarded a LUP to Jamie Webster to deploy cameras on multiple CCL's, this may be related. Asarkof will check.

C. Agriculture Commission: No meeting.

D. Select Board: No rep. present.

E. ESC: No rep. present.

Note #8 and #14 (see below) were discussed after #4 so that CG Manager DeKock, who needed to be present for these items did not have to stay for the entire meeting.

5. LSC Annual Report: Talland will write this.

Note #12 (see below) was discussed at this point in the meeting so that Marjie Findlay did not have to stay for the entire meeting.

6. Finish Table Z, lettering continues from the Table Z entry in the 11/3/2025 meeting minutes.

S. Ice Pond:

i. Is there a need to consider a fire risk due to the presence of a lot of woody debris?

Action: No action.

ii. The gate at the East St. entrance to the Ice Pond trail is leaning over and may not be operable. Consider removing or replacing.

Action: Ask DPW to assess.

T. Keystone Link: Either the town or the property owner may want to remove the trees that have fallen across the wall along the property line.

Action: No action.

U. MacAfee Land: No issues reported.

V. Macone Property: Plan future site visits that approach from other compass directions which may allow some upland access to the property.

Action: Stewards to evaluate.

W. Malcolm Land: No Issues reported.

X. Mannis Land: If the vernal pools are not marked/mapped maybe they should be?

Action: Check to see if these are on the local and state maps.

Y. Rangeway: Trail head is hard to find. There is a sign indicating this is conservation land but it's hard to find the trail from there.

Action: Tobin (Trails) says the trail marker is a little way down Rutland St., there is no parking spot.

Z. Rockstrom: No issues reported.

AA. Russell

Clean the bluebird houses in March.

Action: This was done.

BB. Swanson Family land

i. Woolly alycid presence on some of the tall pines.

Action: Nothing to do on the big trees, horticultural oil works on small plants.

ii. Garden refuse is being left on the town land, possibly because the boundaries are not marked.

Action: See Public Comment above.

CC. Swanson Land

i. Check the woodduck house and add fresh shavings.

Action: Done

ii. Trash pile/dump

Action: Plan TBD w the CA.

DD. Towle

i. Cont monitoring the new mowing regime.

Action: in progress.

ii. Continue to monitor invasives removal progress and growth of invasives.

Action: Ongoing.

iii. Monitor the PI in the west field when it's more easily identified.

Action: Will check in the spring.

iv. Possibly add more native plants such as milkweed and monitor the natives.

Action: monitoring is ongoing.

v. Clean the bluebird boxes in the spring.

Action: Will do.

EE. Town Forest

The cement culvert between trail markers F1 and F2 has separated.

Action: Usher has repaired this

FF. Woodward

i. Invasive overgrowth along the fence along the trail.

Action: No plan at present

ii. New trails

Action: Are now in place.

7. Bluebird Boxes: Not discussed

8. Community Garden Rules: Final version is in the packet for this meeting.

Chojnacki moved to approve the Community Garden Rules subject to any modification that the Conservation Commission might make at their meeting on January 29, 2026, Spinney seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote.

9. Land Management Expert: CPC funding request was not granted.

10. Woodward Land

A. Subcommittee update: there was a discussion of what documents should be included in each of the WWSC meeting packets.

B. Grow Native Land Management Plan was added to this meeting packet.

- C. Additional meetings: Adding an additional meeting in February for the abutters is being discussed.
- 11. Land Stewards Annual Reports: Lyman reminds everyone he still needs reports on Woodward, Malcolm, Mannis and Saks-Greenway.
- 12. LSC Changes
 - A. Member numbers:
 - Lyman thinks that LSC needs a variety of skills and a number of potential members varying between 10 and 12 better allows for accommodating this variety of skills. And, since LSC is not a regulatory body it should not matter that the number of members is not fixed.
 - B. Agriculture mention
 - i. Findlay (Ag Com) suggests adding agricultural farming for food production to the LSC Charter because as a “right to farm” town this is important to the town.
 - ii. Talland asked if the agriculture for food production using ‘sustainable’ practices would be an acceptable modification since this would be consistent with the stewards’ responsibility to protect the land.
 - iv. Findlay points out that there are a lot of descriptions of sustainability.
 - v. There was more discussion but no consensus on this point.
 - vi. Chojnacki pointed out that the 2004 Charter referenced LSC’s responsibility for coordination activities between competing interests.

Sue Pietropaolo (Carlisle resident) Said that a lot of people have trouble paying for food.

Mark Duffy (Carlisle farmer) Said that conventional farming is sustainable.

- 13. Agriculture Licenses 2026
 - A. Hay/Grazing licenses are good until 2030
 - B. The corn licenses up.
 - i. Murphy asks Duffy if he is able to submit his year-end reports before the 2/10/26 LSC meeting, he said that he could.
 - ii. Duffy wants to discuss both the ads and the licenses, Murphy agreed.
 - iii. Murphy added that LSC needs to know if the seeds have been treated with insecticide.
- 14. Invasive Plant Removal at Foss Farm Possible CPA request
 - A. Murphy asked for CG Manager DeKocks thoughts
 - i. DeKock supports removing invasives but adds that controlling invasives needs to be a continuous effort, budgeted for every year which is not how CPA works. Also, he thought CPA funded an invasive removal project at Foss 15 years ago and CPC warned that CPA funding would not be available for further invasive work at Foss (see below).
 - ii. The CGs is responsible for managing the northern part of the road and where the US Fish and Wildlife property abuts the gardens. The Pony Club is responsible for the road south of the CGs but have not been taking care of their stretch, DeKock has been doing that too.

- iii. The PI needs annual treatment.
- iv. CPC funding starts July 1 so starting a project in May may not be feasible.
- v. \$12,000 seems low. The project they did fifteen years ago, using a large machine, ran between 25 and 35K.
- vi. Given the extent of the problem DeKock thinks removing everything, invasives and natives, and starting over is the most practical approach.

Sylvia Willard (ConsCom) Recounts (multiple) previous invasive treatments on CCLs. But, the "one of" CPA grant was for \$16,000 for John Bakewell to treat poison ivy at Towle. The Foss grant money for the project when the large machine was used came from SuAsCo.

- B. The stewards discussed the idea of going forward with this CPC grant proposal and decided not to pursue it at this time.

15. Adjournment

Asarkok moved to adjourn at 10:00 PM JA, Durrell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Next Meeting
February 10, 2026

Submitted by Claudia Talland

Approved: February 10, 2026