

## MINUTES

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

29 Jan 2026

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

Time: 7:01 p.m.

**Participants:**

- Members Present: Eric Balles (co-chair), Christina Christodoulopoulos (co-chair), Alan Gilden (Treasurer), Keith Therrien
- Members Absent: Alex Cardoos (associate member), Mac Hisey, Kyra Prats
- Non-Members Present: Tom Bilotta

**Summary of New Action Items:**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Initial review of proposed wetlands by-law amendments	Christina
Map out way forward with Wildlife Corridor project with other committees	Christina, Eric, Mac
Submit ESC Statement - Cranberry Bog Waiver to Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust	Christina
Submit Woodward Village Native Plant License response to LSC	Christina
Submit Zoo New England Foss Farm project response to ConsCom	Christina
Request time during Conscom meeting to discuss bog dam	Christina
Send comments on bog dam to Christina	All
Develop statement from ESC about speed limits effects on environment	Alan
Submit Alan's Infographic to Town Newsletter	Alan
Reach out to K-4 staff to discuss integration of ESC activities	Alan

\* Indicates help or review role

1. **Call to Order** – Christina Christodoulopoulos, meeting chair, called the meeting to order at **7:01 pm**.
2. **Public Input** – Tom Bilotta did an update on solid waste reduction in Carlisle
  - a. In three and a half years, solid waste went down from 1820 to 1520 tons, about a 17% reduction, which is actually consistent with the state's objective of a 30% reduction over 2018 to 2030.
  - b. Organic waste is the only significant waste stream in which to get a reduction. Estimate of the remaining 1,500 tons, 500 tons is organic waste.
  - c. Voluntary methods to collect organic waste have mostly failed.
  - d. Will recommend to the Select Board that they impose a “soft” organic waste ban on the solid waste bin at the transfer station in late February
  - e. Support for this recommendation was expressed by ESC unanimously
3. **Committee Housekeeping**
  - a. Minutes of the 18 Dec 2025 meeting, as amended, were displayed for review and approval. **Motion** to approve the minutes as displayed: moved by Eric, seconded by Keith, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

- b. Minutes of the 08 Jan 2026 meeting, as amended, were displayed for review and approval. **Motion** to approve the minutes as further amended during discussion: moved by Eric, seconded by Keith, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- c. **Motion** to reconfirm Keith as the ESC voting member on the DPW : moved by Eric, seconded by Alan, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- d. Eric, Christina and Sarah Wasserman have decided to hold monthly meetings between the co-chairs and Sarah to make sure communication is open and everyone is on the same page on the first Wednesday of every month.
- e. Review of changes to the 2025 annual report for the town. **Motion** to approve 2025 ESC annual report as amended: moved by Alan, seconded by Eric, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- f. Reminder for committee members to make people aware of the landscaping policy.
- g. Treasurer's Report –\$896.06 have been spent against our \$12,500, leaving \$11,630.94. With that \$650, \$2,273.24 has been committed against the \$12,500, with \$10,226.76 remaining. The Mass Cultural Council documents were submitted which should result in receiving the \$500 grant.

#### 4. Governance

- a. MVP Core Committee
  - i. Julie to review Demolition bylaw for deconstruction and demolition language. ESC might coordinate with Historical Commission to maybe have an informational bit on the importance of embodied carbon.
  - ii. Christina to do initial review of proposed wetlands by-law amendments and then pass onto ESC members
  - iii. One more meeting to add some culvert language then MVP will disband.

#### 5. Natural Environment

- a. Wildlife Corridor Project
  - i. CPC decided that the project would not qualify for CPA funds.
  - ii. Barney, along with, members from LSC and CONSCOM, and Mac and Christina, and Eric to map out path forward
- b. Trail Signs
  - i. Talked with Steve Tobin and Alpha Graphics as well as local sign manufacturer
    1. Prices in the \$60- \$90 range
      - a. Full graphics, 10-year warranty, aluminum substrate or PVC substrate, our own content
    2. iNaturalist site has information about species and locations in Carlisle
    3. Would work with LSC and the Trails Committee and others in some workshop setting
- c. ESC Statement - Cranberry Bog Waiver - **Motion** for Christina to submit this document as amended to the Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust (via Julie Mercier): moved by Eric, seconded by Keith, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- d. Woodward Village Native Plant License response - **Motion** for Christina to submit this document as amended to the LSC: moved by Eric, seconded by Alan, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- e. Zoo New England Foss Farm project - **Motion** for Christina to submit this document as amended to ConsCom: moved by Eric, seconded by Keith, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- f. Christina to request time during Conscom meeting to discuss Cranberry Bog dam issues. ESC members to send any additional input to Christina.
- g. Liaison Reports:
  - i. Board of Health
    1. Community Farm School wants to move to 1 Bedford Rd. Need assurance that they get a public water waiver to operate since there is no public water available. Board approved the waiver.
    2. Firehouse well is being relocated due to septic resizing.
    3. Removed abutter well testing as a permit requirement.
    4. Testing will be required for septic changes

## 6. Built Environment

- a. Homeworks Energy preparing another outreach letter promoting free weatherization assessment and home testing for weatherization.
- b. Eric attended DOE geothermal (air, well, deep well) webinar which was directed at larger facilities and not residential sized systems.
- c. Eric made comments on how difficult it is to collect information on how heat pumps and minisplits are faring in frigid temperatures.
- d. Fire Station
  - i. Trying to understand the impact of high heating requirements during regular operation. Example of defrosting equipment that has come in from the cold.
- e. Keith to attend the initial DPW Building Committee meeting on February 11th.
- f. Safety Committee
  - i. Speed limit discussions continue. How does this affect wildlife , carbon footprint, etc.? Alan to come up with a framework for ESC input to the Safety Committee.
  - ii. Crosswalk identification is being discussed

## 7. Outreach

- a. Town Newsletter articles –
  - i. Snow Removal Article authored by Keith
    1. Christina feels that the snow removal article as written does not contain enough environmental information to be submitted by ESC.
    2. Optionally Keith can send articles to Mosquito or Newsletter as an individual without the ESC logo.
  - ii. ESC Infographic authored by Alan and AI. **Motion** for Alan to submit this document as amended for Town Newsletter: moved by Eric, seconded by Keith, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- b. ESC hour was well attended. Suggestion to do quarterly. **Motion** to approve \$50 for refreshments, \$175 for advertisements, and \$15 for printing for 1 more ESC hour: moved by Alan, seconded by Eric, and passed unanimously via roll call vote.
- c. Christina volunteered to table the Garden Club's Spring on the Wing in March.
- d. RTSD – Christina to reach out to Ferns, Mothers out front, Concord CAN, Backyard Invasives. No objections. No vote needed per previous committee actions.
- e. Christina will email additional vendors to committee members for any issues

## 8. Liaison reports

- a. School
  - i. Brad Cranston to repeat his climate leaders program between April 8-10. ESC to join Brad in his classes. Outputs will be available at his table during the RTSD.
  - ii. Alan proposes to reach out to both Jim O'Shea's office and Dr. Seidel's office (K-4) to start discussion on incorporating information from ESC .

## 9. Adjournment

- a. Eric moved to close the meeting, all agreed.

- b. Christina adjourned the meeting at **9:07 pm**.

**Minutes:**

Minutes approved by the ESC on 02-19-2026.

Minutes compiled and respectfully submitted by Keith Therrien

**Attachments: none**