

OS&RPC Meeting Minutes 3 on 2020 02 06

Housekeeping

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OS&RPC) for 2020 was held on 06 February 2020 in the Heald Room, Town Hall, Carlisle, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm by David Freedman, Chair. Present were Committee Members Debby Geltner, Steve Hinton, Rhonda Michaud, Amy Smack, Sally Zielinski, and Mary Zoll. Absent was Marc Lamere, now a full member of the Committee. Also present were Sylvia Willard, Conservation Administrator, Town of Carlisle, Helen Lyons, reporter for The Carlisle Mosquito, and Judy Asarkof, member of the public and interested citizen.

David went through the agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting as amended were approved unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3:15. Sylvia will reserve the Heald Room if it is available.

David advised all the Committee members that they could send revisions to him at any time. They do not have to wait until the next meeting.

Ranking

Sylvia confirmed the room reservations for the ranking sessions: The Clark Room on 18 March and The Heald Room on 24 March, both rooms for the evening.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the revised ranking criteria. In Appendix A: Land Protection Values, under Size, the following sentence was added to the end of the paragraph to distinguish use of the word “parcel” by the Assessor’s Office from use of the word by this Committee. “Abutting parcels under the same ownership are treated as one parcel for the purposes of ranking for the OS&RP.”

The Committee reviewed and accepted the revised priority list of unprotected parcels. David and Steve had some discussion about page breaks and printing the priority list on a larger scale to display for the ranking sessions. “P” in the columns for Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B means partial, that is, only part of that land is under that Chapter. For the ranking sessions, the parcels of land will be listed in order of the map, parcel, and lot from the town maps, which corresponds to a roughly organized back and forward sweep through town. The parcels will not be listed in order of size, largest first, to avoid introducing bias into the rankings. After the rankings are done, the parcels will be listed in order of priority, so it will be obvious which parcels are most important to protect.

The letter to the editor for the *Carlisle Mosquito* was reviewed and accepted as amended, with a few non-substantive copy edits. David will make those changes and send the letter to the *Mosquito*, with a request that it be printed in several March issues. Mary asked for a short notice announcing dates and times of the ranking sessions to be published as soon as possible, to get those dates on people’s calendars.

David had asked some key stakeholders if there were any parcels smaller than 10 acres that deserve mention in the OS&RP in addition to the larger ranked parcels. The Trails Committee reported that there are no parcels they believe warrant purchase for protection, but it is seeking easements on some parcels. These will be included in their 7-year Action Plan. At the ranking sessions, David will solicit suggestions from those people assembled for any smaller parcels actually worthy of protection.

Recreation

Amy reported on the Recreation Commission (RecCom) meeting held on 7 January. The Commission reviewed its goals from the 2013 OS&RP. Some goals were met and others not met. The scope of the goals for the 2020 OS&RP is similar to that of the goals from the 2013 OS&RP. Drew McMorrow, Chair of RecCom, will review the goals from the 7-year Action Plan from 2013 and revise as necessary. David asked Amy to remind Drew that this Committee wants the revised 7-year action plan back by 1 March.

RecCom is charged with the care and control of part of the Benfield land on South Street, where the Benfield housing is located. Sarah Hart, who attended the RecCom meeting as a reporter, lives in the neighborhood of Benfield and offered to host a site visit to Benfield for RecCom, to help RecCom decide whether using part of the Benfield land for recreation purposes will be one of its goals in this next 7-year Action Plan.

Amy is working on revising the text about recreation for the OS&RP. A priority for RecCom is to acquire a skating pond and a sledding hill, which fall under the ranking criteria of active recreation, water resources, or special features (if special feature is not otherwise defined by the state workbook for OS&RPs). Water resources has so far meant water for wells and a possible public water supply, but this Committee can include the meaning of water for recreation if it so chooses.

RecCom is not currently interested in acquiring playing fields on any other land except Spalding and Banta-Davis, because of the prohibitive costs of maintenance and transportation. There is undeveloped space remaining on Banta and on the back of the Moseley Land. RecCom has considered acquiring another site for community gardens.

David confirmed with Amy that RecCom should review compliance for all their facilities with the requirements for accessibility from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). David will send her the ADA Self-evaluation forms from the workbook and suggested she ask Holly Mansfield (Director of Recreation) to review the ADA table in the 2013 OS&RP (Table 11) and revise as necessary.

Amy reported that RecCom had just gotten copies of the Multi-generational Community Center Feasibility Study. David noted that either RecCom and the COA could coordinate on their input on the study for the OS&RP or he would review that study and prepare a summary.

Amy asked David to send her an electronic copy of Appendix G: Recreation Commission Plans for the Banta-Davis Land, of Appendix H: Recreation Commission Grievance Policy, and of Map 8: Seven-Year Action Plan (for the whole town of Carlisle, compiled from the action plans from the individual boards and committees).

Mapping

Steve said the mapping software was working, but his single-user license was due to expire in March. David has asked the Planning Board for an extension. Steve is working on Map 7: Inventory of Open Space and hopes to have it ready for the ranking sessions on 18 March and 24 March. Sylvia and Debby's first visit to neighboring towns is scheduled for 3 March, and they would like to take Map 7 with them to those meetings. Steve said he might have Map 7 ready by then.

David reported on conversations with regard to mapping he and Steve had had with the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) and his expectations with regard to updated demographic data needed for Section 3: Community Setting.

Progress on Other 7-Year Action Plans

The Land Steward Committee (LSC) is revising its 7-year Action Plan and expects to have the Committee review it at its meeting in March. Warren Lyman is the Chair. David will remind Warren that this Committee would like the revised plan by 1 March, but that a few weeks delay will be OK. Rhonda asked how the LSC should interpret the word "offering," as in what changes would you recommend with respect to open space and recreation offerings in Carlisle. LSC does not "offer" public events or programs. David explained that "offering" meant a different thing to each committee, something that agrees with the mandate for that committee. For LSC, perhaps, it meant continuing its baseline assessments of its parcels and continuing to implement its management plans. Compliance with ADA is important for LSC, so David asked Rhonda to consult Table 11: Accessibility of Conservation and Recreation Facilities in the 2013 OS&RPC. David will send Rhonda the ADA self-assessment forms.

Rhonda and Debby asked about keeping historical parts of the narrative for LSC for this new plan, and David advised them to use their judgment. If information that was in the last plan was timely then but no longer relevant, they can delete it. All the revised sections will be reviewed by Committee members, so, if someone objects to a deletion, it can be reinserted.

Sylvia reported that the Conservation Commission (ConsCom) is partway through its revision. Amy is on the Youth Commission, chaired by Lauree Eckler. They will work on the plan from that Commission.

David will send out an e-mail to remind all 25 boards, committees, and commissions that the OS&RPC would like to have their revised 7-year action plans by 1 March 2020.

List of Species for Appendix D: Wild Animals, Plants, and Other Organisms in Carlisle

Sally reported that she had the letter Sylvia had obtained from National Heritage, so it will be easy to complete the list of rare species. The section on insects is in process. She is getting input on Appendix D from Alan Ankers, Tom Brownrigg, Ken Harte, Kay Hurley, Peter Burn, and other naturalists in town. She is adding a third column for comments about various species, such as its status as rare or endangered, whether it's native, introduced, or invasive, and perhaps other comments and confirmed that each entry would still fit on one line. She will use the taxonomy

from the Bioblitz in 2019 because that taxonomy uses the latest information from DNA analysis that prompted the reclassification of many organisms.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

David had sent out a revision of Section 4 to Committee members. He revised some of the pieces on fishing and hunting. Rhonda fishes and volunteered to take on the fishing. Steve will send Rhonda some contact information for some person or persons who fish in Carlisle. Rhonda will find out what species they are catching and send that information to Sally for Appendix D. Rhonda will ask John Aziz, Park Supervisor at Great Brook Farm State Park, whether it's still true that the pond in Great Brook Farm State Park is stocked and, if so, with what kinds of fish.

David reported that he sent the section on geology to Tony Mariano. Sylvia will review the sections on Landfill and on Erosion and Chronic Flooding.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs and Map 8: Seven-Year Action Plan

David had sent Section 7 to Committee members. This OS&RPC will wait for the 7-year Action Plans from the various boards, committees, and commissions before deciding what to say in a statement of needs for the whole town and deciding how to revise Map 8: Seven-Year Action Plan (for the whole town), probably in April.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Debby and Rhonda reported that the update of Section 5 was almost done.

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program is a statewide initiative to prepare for climate change. There are state grants available. David suggested that we wait for input from the MPSC who will be looking into this.

With regard to hunting rules and regulations, David suggested that the Deer Committee and Board of Selectmen may be reviewing the future status of hunting in town, so revising that section would have to wait, pending the outcome of their deliberations.

Debby said she needed the numbers of the conservation restrictions for three parcels, and Sylvia said all that information is in the OS&RP from 2013. David advised her that some parcels have gone into or out of Chapter 61, that there are new Conservation Restrictions (CRs), and that there is new town-owned land, all since the last OS&RP. All those lists have to be updated. ConsCom has responsibility for four new parcels, and Sylvia will put the naming of those parcels on a ConsCom agenda.

Regional Coordination

In Section 3: Community Setting, for the section on Regional Coordination, Sylvia and Debby will be meeting with their counterparts in neighboring towns. David asked them to review the section on Regional Coordination in the last OS&RP before those meetings and to ask about joint projects with the various regional entities, such as Metropolitan Area Planning Committee (MAPC),

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), and others.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives; Section B: Available Protection Methods

David asked for help, perhaps from Sylvia and LSC, to find out what grants are available. Steve will provide David with a link to a monthly newsletter that may help with updating the list of available grants.

Map 5: Unique Features

Unique features for Map 8 differ from the special features, which is one of the criteria for the ranking sessions. The list of unique features also has to wait until this Committee gets the 7-year Action Plans from the other committees, commissions, and boards in town.

Appendix J: Conservation and Recreation Projects Receiving Community Preservation Act Funds

David revised this list of funds from the Community Preservation Act (CPA). He reversed the order, so that, now, the most recent grants are at the top of the page. If ConsCom's application for partially funding the Greenough Dam repair is approved at 2020 Town Meeting, David will add that to the list.

Miscellany

Mary asked why Judy was here, whether she had a specific issue or area of interest. Judy said she was interested, she wanted to help, and she seemed particularly interested in biodiversity, specifically protecting various insects and natural pollinators. The Board of Health's proposal to join the mosquito-control district and allow town-wide spraying for mosquitoes was mentioned. Perhaps the position of this Committee might be that spraying of insecticides for mosquito control is not warranted unless the town is faced with an extreme health emergency because this Committee believes that biodiversity is of the highest priority. Judy was also interested in what individual homeowners can do in their own yards to promote biodiversity and informing the public of such information. Sally had already sent Judy the text David had written on native pollinators.

There was some agreement that the Committee would re-use Phyllis Hughes' drawings for the cover and section dividers, although David wanted to pick a different drawing for the cover.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Zoll
Clerk