

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting
March 15, 2022
Via teleconference - 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Judy Asarkof, Tom Brownrigg, Debbie Geltner, Warren Lyman, and Rhonda Michaud. Dwight DeMay and Nick Ognibene were absent. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was present.

This meeting was conducted by Zoom teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with all participants at home. The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Chair Lyman.

The February 15, 2022, minutes were approved as amended.

New Business

1. Notes from 3-7-22 Cranberry Bog Working Group meeting.

Lyman attended the meeting and gave a summary. Dam #1 needs repair, and Willard said that ConsCom needs to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) with a plan to the Office of Dam Safety. Geltner asked how they plan to stabilize the dam, and Willard said that they are considering the use of riprap along the upstream. She said that wave action is undercutting the dam and that there are holes created by beavers and dogs that go swimming. Willard said that she learned about a new material called “polysteel netting” described on the MIT website. She thought this might be of use for stabilizing the dam and will get more information.

Willard said that the Carlisle DPW has offered to help remove phragmites that had been cut prior to treatment with herbicide; no date has been set for the removal.

2. Towle Field Mowing Protocol

The visit to Towle Field originally scheduled for March 13 was rescheduled to March 20 at 2 PM. Lyman asked the committee what the next steps should be in terms of how to divide the field for mowing and other issues. The goal for the visit is to decide how the field will be mowed and then obtain cost estimates from mowers.

3. Habitat Pollinator Project

Prior to the meeting Geltner sent an outline called “Topics Outline for Habitat Restoration Program - Private Property”. There was discussion of the outline and sources of information. Asarkof mentioned an upcoming Xerces Society meeting that she plans to attend. Lyman showed a book titled *Pollinators* (?) that has good information but was not published by the Xerces Society. He will contact the publisher and request permission to distribute some

materials from the book to LSC members. Willard obtained a video on pollinators that runs about 1 hour and sent it to Geltner.

Willard noted that the Tenneco gas pipeline will be cleared this year. The pipeline goes through part of Stillmeadow Farm that includes the habitat of a rare plant. She has contacted Tenneco regarding the plant and was told that they use herbicides only around rectifiers, which are used to neutralize static charge in the pipe.

Lyman thought that LSC could produce a one- or two-page brochure that could be mailed to all residents. Asarkof thought such a brochure might already be available from the Xerces Society. Asarkof recommended that people read the Carlisle Mosquito Eco Zone article by Joeth Barlas (February 15, 2022). The article discusses Doug Tallamy's work on creating native habitats on private land. Asarkof said we should consider writing Eco Zone articles for the Carlisle Mosquito versus mailing brochures. Geltner thought that Fern's might be willing to make brochures available to customers.

Regarding specific activities from her outline, Geltner said to "keep it simple" since this program is directed at the average homeowner and requires a change in attitudes. Asarkof thought that a demonstration garden would be helpful and will contact the Carlisle Garden Club regarding their plans. Geltner said that she will shorten her list of topics. Lyman said that he will visit some of the pollinator projects in Lincoln and think about what Carlisle could do.

4. Proposed Wildflower Plantings at Cranberry Bog & Greenough Land

Lyman has prepared a map showing the proposed locations of New England Blazing Star at the Cranberry Bog and rosemallow near Greenough dam. Regarding the later location, Willard recommended that the plants be at least ten feet from the base of the dam since the dam will be mowed. She also said that Lyman will need to discuss this project with ConsCom.

5. Preparation for April Town Meeting?

Willard said that the Community Preservation Committee has not met this year. She has an estimate for the repair of Cranberry Bog Dam #1 but has not sent requests for bids to potential bidders. ConsCom will get funding to prepare the NOI through a Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant.

6. Other topics

Lyman said that he obtained a report dated 2018 regarding Native American sites on the Towle Land, including an equinox sunrise alignment and a spirit portal. The report was written by ? who live in Amesbury. Several members expressed an interest in having a copy of the report. Willard thought that Tim Fohl would be also be interested and will contact him.

Old Business

Lyman has not heard from Marc Wey and associates regarding their proposal to clear vines and other vegetation from the stone wall at Towle Field.

Next Meetings:

April 19, 2022 @ 7 PM

May 17, 2022 @ 7PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 4/19/22