

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting
May 14, 2019
Town Hall - 7:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Brownrigg, Dwight DeMay, Debby Geltner, Warren Lyman, Sylvia Willard (Conservation Administrator)

Not Present: Andrew Wilmot

Guests: Rhonda Michaud (soon to be a LSC member)

The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM

New LSC Member: A motion was made and unanimously approved to recommend to the Selectmen that Rhonda Michaud be appointed to the Land Stewardship Committee for a 3-year term. Willard agreed to pass on the recommendation to the Selectmen.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting were approved with amendments. Geltner abstained from voting as she had not been present at the 4-16-19 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG)

The CBWG had an official meeting May13, 2019. Most of the time was taken up reviewing the reasons why cranberry growing was not selected for the bog's future. This review was in response to comments and questions from Carlisle's Agricultural Commission regarding their perception that some form of cranberry growing, such as dry harvesting with marketing to local retailers, might be viable. Comments were also made that renewed efforts to find a cranberry farmer might be warranted, especially if the Town indicated a subsidy might be paid to the farmer. Desiree Ball of the Agricultural Commission was present and participated in the discussions. Lyman agreed to draft a white paper on the reasons why the Cranberry Bog Alternatives Committee did not select cranberry farming. The CBWG will meet next on June 3.

2. Greenough Dam Repairs

Willard reported that the warrant article requesting Town (CPA) support for the dam repairs had been removed from the warrant (without prejudice). She also reported that, thanks to our new State Rep, Tami Gouveia, she now has contact information for one of Gouveia's legislative aides who will be able to provide guidance on how Carlisle can get the funding earmarked in the State's recently passed bond bill. Willard has a letter requesting this State funding which will soon be sent to the new head of the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). Prior to Town Meeting, Willard had put the repair project out to bid and received bids in the range of \$385,000 to \$700,000, well above the Town's initial estimate. The

State's bond bill had approved an amount "not less than \$200,000." While the dam repair project is currently fully permitted, some permits will expire in the near future and need to be renewed.

3. Woodward Land

Brownrigg reported that he had visited the Woodward property recently in part to check the boundary with a private property where construction was underway. He is also finishing up the Baseline Report for the property which will be presented to the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee; LSC will be given a copy of the report.

4. Site Visit to Russell Conservation Land

No action taken at this meeting. There was a brief discussion of the parking restrictions.

5. LSC Conservation Projects

There was an initial discussion of the need for LSC to continually evaluate the condition of Town-owned conservation lands. There followed a discussion of the need to do a spring cleaning of all the bluebird boxes on such lands, and the status of such cleaning. It was estimated that there were 42 such bluebird boxes.

To initiate an LSC project to evaluate the need for new or replacement signs on Town-owned conservation lands, a list of the 34 such properties was handed out and LSC members volunteered to conduct evaluations for 24 properties; the list of properties and assignments is attached. The LSC then reviewed and discussed a list of specific tasks that were recommended to be part of the evaluation (also attached). Besides the need for new or replacement signs, information on sign location, type, and condition; kiosks was also to be checked and reported. LSC members were asked to back off signs mounted on trees if the gap between the tree and the sign had disappeared. Lyman agreed to draft a standard reporting form for the sign evaluation project.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of LSC Officers

After discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved to elect Warren Lyman and Andrew Wilmot as co-chairs, and Tom Brownrigg as secretary, for the next fiscal year. Willard will check for any needed reappointments.

2. Benfield Conservation Land Issues

Willard reported on a problem with the Benfield Farms leach field that was first noted in April 2018. Based on observations of surface water (or surface ice) or mud at several (at least 23) locations over the leach field area, it appears there is breakout of septic fluids on the field. The information from a number of observations, and from tests done by the Board of Health (BOH) or their contractors, has been provided to the BOH. More tests are apparently needed. Ruptures

of the leach field pipes by bluebird box stakes, or other stakes, seems unlikely as the pipes are about two feet below ground surface. The area is to be roped off.

3. Cranberry Bog Log Bench

Geltner reported that a log bench that had been constructed on the north side of the Irrigated Bog appeared to be unsafe as the top log had rolled off at one point. She requested that a fix be devised.

4. Bog Maintenance Issues

Geltner reminded the LSC that invasive species and dike erosion remain significant issues and will need attention.

The meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

Attachments:

- List of Town-owned conservation lands and assignments for sign evaluation (table, 1 p)
- Suggested tasks for sign evaluation project (text, 1 p)

Next Meetings

- June 11, 2019 @ 7 PM
- July 9, 2019 @ 7 PM

Minutes approved on June 11, 2019

Submitted by Warren Lyman

Town-Owned Conservation Lands (April 2019)

(Assignments as of 5-14-19)

Land Name	Location	Acres	Sign Checker/Comments
Arrowhead Lane	Great Brook Path		
Benfield Cons. Land	South Street	25.7	TB
Bisbee Land	Lowell Street	34	DD
Buttrick Woods Cons. Land	Lowell Street	14	SW
Carr Land	off Bellows Hill Rd.	6.1	SW
Cranberry Bog	Curve Street	151	DG & WL
Davis Corridor	Bedford Road to Estabrook Woods	126	SW
Deacon Land	off Baldwin Road	7.5	SW
Fisk Meaqdow	off Lowell Street	11..6	WL
Foss Farm	Bedford Road	55.2	SW
Fox Hill	Bedford Road - Stearns Street	11.2	WL
Gage Woodland	off Lowell Street - Ember Lane	14	DG
Great Brook Estates OS#1	Rutland Street	3.7	
Greenough Land	Maple Street	255	TB & WL
Greystone Crossing Conservation Land	off Cross Street	14.3	WL
Hart Farm Cons. Land	off Curve Street	13.5	RM
(name?)	Hartwell Road - abuts Bisbee	?	DD
Heidke Parcel	next to Town Forest	8.2	DG
Hutchins Field	Curve Street	16	RM
Ice Pond Cons. Land	next to GBFSP	7.1	
Keystone Link	off South Street	1	DD
MacAfee Land	next to Carlisle Pines State Forest	15	DD
Macone Property	off Brook Street	3	
Malcolm Land	Stearns Street	22.9	
Mannis Land	off Aldershot Lane	27.9	
Rangeway Cons. Land	off Rutland Street	8.2	
Robbins Field	Curve Street	18.5	RM
Rockstrom Cons. Land	off School Street	7.6	SW
Russell Cons. Land	Russell Street	22	
Sachs Greenway	off Baldwin Road	9.3	
Swanson Family Land	Tall Pines Lot 10	3	DD
Towle Land	Westford Street	120.9	TB
Town Forest	East Street	71	DG
Woodward Cons. Land	off Maple Street	6	

Attachment 2

LSC – Signs for Town-Owned Conservation Lands – 2019 Tasks DRAFT

Key Task

1. Review each (major?) property for adequate signage (new or replacement); make recommendations to LSC for needed signs or work.

Secondary Tasks

1. Record the location of each sign, and its type, on a map of the property.
2. Photograph the sign to help record the sign type, location and condition.
3. Clean signs that are dirty.
4. Back off the aluminum signs mounted on trees if the tree has grown out enough to touch the sign.

Comments & Suggestions

- Most, but not all, signs are at trail heads or parking lots. Some are on the Carlisle side of a Town boundary that is crossed by a trail.
- Consider working with a partner.
- Make sure you have a good map of the property before your initial visit. A blow-up from the Trails Committee guide book may work well for some properties. Otherwise, check with Sylvia.
- A wrench will be needed to back off signs mounted on trees. (Most commonly it will need to fit the nut/head of a 5/16” bolt. Need a slim wrench to fit behind sign.)