

Minutes for Environmental Stewardship Focus Group Meeting 1—08-05-2021

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Minutes Approved: 08-25-2021

Submitted by: Bob Zogg

Participants: Alan Lewis, Don Allen, Christina Christodoulou, Bob Zogg (Facilitator), Judy Aserkof (guest--left early)

Absent: Dave Boettcher

Start Time: 8:59 AM

Discussion: The underlined/crossed out red text below shows suggested updates to draft recommendations as developed at the meeting. This will be revised further in August 12 meeting. Also see quotes forwarded by Christina on page 3.

End Time: 10:33 AM

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| Value: Carlisle Character |
| <i>Carlisle values its natural, agricultural, historical, and cultural resources.</i> |
| Goal 3. Protect and maintain open space, recreational assets, conservation lands, and wetlands. |
| 3A. As parcels become available, evaluate and consider for Town acquisition and protection in accordance with the current OSRP <u>and consistent with sustainable development plans.-</u> |
| 3B. Protect natural resources against ecosystem threats other than development, including such as unsustainable development, invasive species, plant diseases, and over-use. |
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| Value: Connectivity & Access |
| <i>Carlisle values physical, geographic, digital, and social connections across the community</i> |
| Goal 12. Identify opportunities to improve walkability and connectivity of Carlisle’s pathways, trails, and roadways. |
| 12A. Pursue a WalkAudit (with WalkBoston) to identify priorities for increased pedestrian safety. <u>Identify what these programs are.</u> |
| 12B. Continue to implement the Town’s Complete Streets policy and educate residents about the program. |
| 12C. Create/maintain GIS data layers of roadway and sidewalks (by type and ownership) and off-road trail networks (by type and ownership) to assist in coordinated maintenance, planning, and funding. |
| <u>12D. Consider the environmental impacts of all new or expanded trails</u> |
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| Goal 13. Support the transportation needs of non-driving residents. |
| 13A. Continue to support existing local transportation services for seniors and disabled residents. |
| 13B. Evaluate demand for intra-community transportation options such as first-mile/last-mile connections to transit stations or use of Cross-Town Connect. <u>Correct—Cross-Town Connect not available in Carlisle. COA has alternative program. Acknowledge COA program, and how we might improve it.</u> |

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| Value: Environmental Stewardship |
| <i>Carlisle values minimizing its impact on the natural environment and global climate.</i> |
| Goal 17. Strengthen the Town’s environmental sustainability policies. |
| 17A. Encourage sustainable residential development principles (e.g., by encouraging use of Conservation Cluster and/or Residential Open Space bylaws.) <u>Encourage no-new footprint for new construction (building on previously disturbed land, cut no new forests, value non-fiscal value of undeveloped land).</u> <u>Value carbon emissions, including existing forests/woodlands</u> <u>--Christina to send quote</u> <u>Look into Mass Audobon as model?</u> |
| 17B. Leverage available state <u>and federal</u> resources to support Town sustainability efforts and maintain Carlisle's Green Community designation. |
| 17C. Develop warrant article to restrict the use of fossil fuels in <u>newly constructed homes/buildings</u> new construction or major renovations using a Home Rule Petition <u>or other means</u> |
| 17D. Establish policies (possibly including pay-as-you-throw, <u>working with charities for re-use of items, and improved communications/education on options</u>) to encourage recycling and reduce solid waste in accordance with the 2021 Transfer Station Task Force and Household Recycling Committee. |
| <u>17E. Require passive house, zero energy ready, or similar in new construction.</u> |
| Goal 18. Establish and pursue community-wide carbon reduction goals aligned with State goals. |
| 18A. Using the Path to Zero Emissions report as a starting point, develop a detailed implementation plan for achieving goals. |
| 18B. Dedicate professional staff to support these efforts, perhaps as a shared interdepartmental position or through an interlocal agreement. |
| 18C. Establish a framework for tracking and evaluating progress toward these goals over time. |
| <u>18D. Establish environmental stewardship volunteer committee. Any statutory authority? Works with paid staff to develop and implement plan. Coordinate with like-minded communities and state agencies, as appropriate.</u> |
| Goal 19. Reduce community-wide consumption of energy, water, and solid waste. |
| 19A. Support the use of electric vehicles (e.g., through the installation of charging stations and parking spots for EVs). |
| 19B. Encourage increased telecommuting to lower household vehicle miles travelled. Strike if we can't get more specific. |
| 19C. Encourage/incentivize/educate about the importance of the evolution of Carlisle’s existing housing stock to lower both energy use and carbon emissions |
| <u>19D. Launch educational program to inform public on specific approaches (example: EV event/demo/test drives)</u> |
| Goal 20. Pursue measures to protect water resources and wetlands. |
| 20A. Evaluate possible town well sites and create a zoning overlay that protects the watersheds around them. |
| 20B. Consider strategies that encourage the management of stormwater runoff – e.g., zoning and general bylaw review, development of a stormwater bylaw based upon LID principles, implementing green infrastructure, etc. (Note: MassAudubon has a LID bylaw review tool.) <i>[LID = Low Impact Development]</i> |
| 20C. Reduce community-wide water use for irrigation/outdoor watering during dry months. Can we get more specific about how we would reduce community-wide water use? |

Goal 21. Safeguard the community from the impacts of climate change. *[Goal likely needs more supporting recommendations.]*

21A. Implement the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

>>>Bob to send link to draft report

Other?

Eliminate waste of energy—behavioral—increase awareness. (example, no-idling signs)

How to communicate long-term impacts?

>>>Needs better overall structuring—Bob to propose

Why is environmental stewardship always at the end of the list?

Quotes forwarded by Christina:

“Why is there not mention of putting a dollar value, real estate tax reduction or some other financial incentive to keep our current best carbon sequestration going in Carlisle's standing trees and forest? Trees are taken for granted in Carlisle, they are looked at something that gets in the way or "wasted space". The way to "force" (in a gentle and reasonable science-based way) appreciation is to quantify carbon sequestration in Carlisle forest types and parcels, and reward those who keep it standing. Every time another couple of acres of forest is cleared for development we all lose. The Deck House development model was pretty good in retrospect, housing lots were not clear-cut, bulldozed, and turfed as they are now. Cluster housing developments tend to wipe everything out. What are strategies to keep the soil structure intact, and trees and habitat standing even for cluster housing? It can be done, no shame in making a developer more responsible no matter how much they complain about it effecting their bottom line. Bringing carbon sequestration incentives into new development would be huge. "Planting trees" or "habitat replacement" is a cynical industry/developer green-washing strategy. Sounds good, it's weak compared to keeping what we have that works so well uptaking and sequestering atmospheric carbon. If we can do that, sure plant some trees.”

Suggestion: “Carlisle explore payment for our preserved forests as does Mass. Audubon. Our trees count as carbon offsets, and whatever funds accrue can be used to maintain our conserved lands. To me it's a no brainer. Also, if a developer cuts, they should be assessed a fee which would probably be passed on to the owner. Most important, an inventory should be started: what do we have, and what are we losing? Eversource takes down enormous amounts of "carbon" every year. They don't keep track. I've asked. We have a resource that is not valued!”