

Minutes for Environmental Stewardship Focus Group Meeting 2—08-12-2021

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Minutes Approved: 08-25-2021

Submitted by: Bob Zogg

Participants: Alan Lewis, Don Allen, Christina Christodoulou, Dave Boettcher, Bob Zogg (Facilitator)

Absent: None

Start Time: 7:05 PM

Discussion: The focus group continued proposing updates to the master plan recommendations that it started at the 08-05-2021 meeting. See additional suggested updates in underlined/crossed out red text below. The group, however, did not have time to review the changes Christina proposed in advance of the meeting. These proposed changes are shown under the heading “Christina”, starting near the bottom of page 3 and continuing onto page 4. The group agreed to have a third meeting to revise the draft recommendations further.

End Time: 8:33 PM

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; chemical, noise and light pollution; and over-use.
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>
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>

Proposed Hierarchy Changes for Environmental Stewardship

Value: Environmental Stewardship

Carlisle values minimizing its impact on the natural environment and global climate.

Consider organizing by these goals:

- Reduce energy use (energy efficiency, behavioral changes)
- Reduce carbon emissions through electrification and renewable energy
- Reduce solid waste
- Protect water quality and reduce consumption
- Protect land/flora/fauna
- Crosscutting—Management/execution/implementation
 - Identify what takes town money
 - Identify what takes policy change
 - Criteria for priorities? Show impacts vs. costs/risks?
 - >>>Need third meeting. Dave can host if I'm not available.

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Support/encourage state (and federal?) policy?

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.)

Encourage no-new footprint for new construction (building on previously disturbed land, cut no new forests, value non-fiscal value of undeveloped land).

Value carbon emissions, including existing forests/woodlands

--Christina to send quote

Look into Mass Audubon as model?

17B. Leverage available state and federal 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 newly constructed homes/buildings~~new construction~~ or major renovations using a Home Rule Petition or other means

17D. Establish policies (possibly including pay-as-you-throw, working with charities for re-use of items, and improved communications/education on options) to encourage recycling and reduce solid waste in accordance with the 2021 Transfer Station Task Force and Household Recycling Committee.

17E. Require/incentivise passive house, zero energy ready, or similar in new construction.

17F. Support/encourage state and federal policies that address environmental stewardship. Coordinate with neighboring communities on this effort.

17G. Establish Carlisle as a leader in promoting environmental stewardship by setting the example.

17H. 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.

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. Plan will likely include, among other measures:

Commented [B2]: Former Goal 19 seems redundant with Goal 18. What if we move the recommendations previously under Goal 19, as shown here?

Do we need to say more about solid waste?

We've captured water under Goal 20.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the use of electric vehicles, including both individuals and municipal fleets. Initiate educational programs on behavioral practices that can lower environmental impacts. Example: Encourage increased telecommuting to lower household vehicle miles travelled Encourage/educate about the importance of the evolution of Carlisle's existing housing stock to lower both energy use and carbon emissions Launch educational program to inform public on specific approaches (example: EV event/demo/test drives).
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, and celebrating accomplishments as we achieve them.
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
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.) [LID = Low Impact Development]
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?
Christina:
1A. Explore regulatory measures to support the farm community such as streamlining permit requirements for accessory farm businesses or small-scale farm-related commercial uses.

Commented [B3]: Christina:

And municipal fleets - school buses, regular routes and charging times make for more viable EVs, explore "demand response", time of use pricing in municipal facilities, etc. Leading by example: if residents see such implementation in the municipal sector, they might be more inclined to follow suit.

Don:

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

Commented [B4]: Christina:

Reduction in chemicals that get into stormwater runoff and into the system - agricultural, residential gardens and household

Address mosquito spraying, esp by questionable companies (this affects more than just watersheds, it affects the whole ecosystem)

Commented [B5]: Christina:

Tie in with an informational outreach on the negative impacts of "lawn culture" - water over-use, herbicides, pesticides, etc. Informational outreach on responsible residential gardening. Promote pollinator gardens, native, non cultivar specimens.

Commented [B6]: Bob:

Weatherize homes to increase resiliency to power outages?

Emergency shelter needs?

Power outages—research options to strengthen resiliency to power outages (such as partnering with Concord)?

Roads: Identify vulnerable roads and prioritize upgrades?

Encourage sustainable, eco-friendly, organic practices in both commercial and residential farming, avoiding mono-culture crops and chemicals, paying attention to potential negative impacts and to proper permitting.

10. Determine feasible uses or other options for underutilized Town-owned structures and land.

I feel this needs to be reworded: structures and land should be separated. The impact of decisions on structure use and land use is different. The recommendation stated this way can provide an unforeseen "loophole" negatively impacting land preservation.

Other:

Encourage municipal decisions to incorporate environmentally sound practices. All MP sections to also incorporate environmentally sound practices.

I feel a section is needed focusing on homeowners and their land use, urging reduction in harmful household practices. Suggestion for a recommendation (needs better wordsmithing):

Create a community outreach program with information on the negative impacts (to humans, pets, wildlife and the environment) of the use of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, household chemicals and other poisons and encourage the use of safer, effective, environmentally friendly alternatives.

Reduction in chemicals should apply to town lands as well.

Continued promotion of CRs, land donation, right of first refusal for land, etc.

ADDRESS 40B In the Master Plan!!! This has the potential to affect all aspects of the MP

Carlisle's "Conservation" is currently human centric. A balance is needed between human and nature centric

Need to continue to encourage better understanding of and respect for nature and the environment (information on the importance of Carlisle's natural resources).

Something mentioned in MPSC meetings: there is a sense that Carlisle is "nostalgic" and not "foreword thinking". We can be very "forward thinking" by being in the forefront of environmental sustainability.

What should the community learn about?