

Environmental Stewardship Draft Recommendations Review—Meeting #3 Minutes

08-25-2021

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Minutes Approved: 08-27-2021. As Meeting 3 was the last anticipated meeting of this focus group, these minutes were approved by email vote of the meeting participants. The participants unanimously approved these minutes.

Submitted by: Bob Zogg

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

Absent: None

Meeting Start: 7:00 PM

Minutes for 08-05-2021 Meeting: Approved unanimously

Minutes for 08-12-2021 Meeting: Approved unanimously

Discussion: See mark-ups below, which represent the group’s consensus on proposed changes to the goals and recommendations, to be submitted to the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Meeting End: 8:20 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> <u>Also, encourage residents to protect private land using Conservation Restrictions.</u>
3B. Protect natural resources against ecosystem threats other than development, including such as unsustainable development; <u>invasive species;</u> <u>plant diseases;</u> <u>chemical, noise, and light pollution;</u> and over-use.
Value: Fiscal Sustainability
<i>Carlisle values the long-term fiscal health of the community.</i>
Goal 10: Determine feasible uses or other options for underutilized Town-owned structures and land.
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.

12D. Consider the environmental impacts of all new or expanded trails

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.

Correct—Cross-Town Connect not available in Carlisle. COA has alternative program. Acknowledge COA program, and how we might improve it.

Value: Environmental Stewardship
<i>Carlisle values minimizing its impact on the natural environment and global climate.</i>
Goal 17. Establish a framework to support Carlisle's Environmental Stewardship value.
17A. Establish and pursue community-wide carbon reduction goals aligned with State goals.
17B&A. Using the Path to Zero Emissions report as a starting point, develop a detailed implementation plan for achieving goals.
17C&B. Dedicate professional staff to support these efforts, perhaps as a shared interdepartmental position or through an interlocal agreement.
17D&C. Establish a framework for tracking and evaluating progress toward these goals over time, <u>and celebrating accomplishments as we achieve them.</u>
17EA. Establish Carlisle as a leader in promoting environmental stewardship by setting the example.
17F. Establish and maintain accountability (with performance metrics) for municipal energy use and emissions, and <u>incorporate environmental stewardship into municipal decision-making.</u>
17GB. Establish environmental stewardship volunteer committee. <u>Works with paid staff to develop and implement plan. Coordinate with like-minded communities and state agencies, as appropriate.</u>
17HC. <u>Support/encourage state and federal policies that address environmental stewardship. Coordinate with neighboring communities on this effort.</u>
17ID. Leverage available state <u>and federal</u> resources to support Town environmental stewardship efforts.
17JX. Assign dollar value to greenhouse gas emissions when making municipal-level spending decisions.
Goal 18. Lower energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in transportation and the built environment.
Policy Initiatives:
18A. Encourage sustainable residential development principles (e.g., by encouraging use of Conservation Cluster and/or Residential Open Space bylaws.)
18B7C. Develop warrant article to restrict the use of fossil fuels in <u>newly constructed homes/buildingsnew construction</u> or major renovations using a Home Rule Petition <u>or other means</u>
18C. <u>Require/incentivize passive house, zero energy ready, or similar in new construction.</u>
Voluntary Initiatives:
18D. <u>Support the use of electric vehicles, including both individuals and municipal fleets.</u>
18E. <u>Initiate educational programs on behavioral practices that can lower environmental impacts. Examples: Encourage increased telecommuting to lower household vehicle miles travelled; place no-idling signs; dietary changes.</u>
18F. <u>Encourage/educate about the importance of the evolution of Carlisle's existing housing stock to lower both energy use and carbon emissions</u>
18G. <u>Launch educational program to inform public on specific approaches (example: EV event/demo/test drives).</u>
18H. <u>Lower the use of small engines in lawn and garden equipment (both personal use, contractors, and municipal)</u>
Goal 19. Lower the environmental impacts associated with solid-waste disposal.
19A7D. 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.
19B. <u>Encourage re-use of building materials, where appropriate</u>
Goal 20. Protect water quality and reduce water consumption.

- 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: Mass Audubon has a LID bylaw review tool.) [*LID = Low Impact Development*]
- 20C. Reduce community-wide water use for irrigation/outdoor watering during dry months. Consider in-ground drip irrigation, night-time watering, automatic-rain-shutoff devices, smart controllers, leak reduction, rain-water capture, drought-tolerant plantings and lawn alternatives, and other water-conservation measures.

20D. Limit the use of harmful pesticides/herbicides and household chemicals

Goal 21. Protect land (both developed and undeveloped), including native flora and fauna.

21A. Encourage no-new footprint for new construction (building on previously disturbed land, cut no forests, recognize non-fiscal value of undeveloped land).

21B: Promote environmentally sensitive agricultural, gardening, and lawn/recreational field care practices.

- Explore regulatory measures to support the farm community such as streamlining permit requirements for accessory farm businesses or small-scale farm-related commercial uses.
- Encourage sustainable, eco-friendly practices in both commercial and residential farming, avoiding mono-culture crops, limiting use of harmful pesticides/herbicides.
- 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 harmful pesticides, herbicides, and household chemicals and encourage the use of safer, effective, environmentally friendly alternatives.

Goal 23. Minimize noise and light pollution.

23A. Promote use of electric lawn and garden equipment/tools.

23B. Continue to enforce and strengthen Carlisle’s [Policy for Noise Control \(Revised 09/10/2018\)](#).

23C. Reduce unnecessary outdoor lighting. Possible measures include removing unnecessary lights, using motion sensors, using shielded light fixtures (to lower light lost to the sky), and others.

Goal 24. Safeguard the community from the impacts of climate change. [Goal likely needs more supporting recommendations.] We recommend moving this goal to *Caring Community*.

24A. Implement the Town’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan, including addressing emergency shelter needs, improving the resiliency of the electric grid (perhaps by partnering with Concord and other means), identifying vulnerable roads and prioritizing upgrades, and weatherizing homes to increase resiliency to power outages.

Items discussed, but not for inclusion in proposed changes to MPSC:

How to communicate long-term impacts?

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

Continued promotion of Conservation Restrictions, 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.

Environmental Stewardship Committee: Will need to eventually establish whether this committee will have any statutory authority.

What should the community learn about?

Need to emphasize the importance of addressing individual environmental stewardship—individual contributions/accountability matter. Include benefits to the individual.

Explain why municipal level action is appropriate, in addition to state and federal actions

Discuss balance of individual freedom vs the common good. Discuss how policy issues might be decided if included in the master plan.

Both human and nature's needs are important and intertwined.

What are examples of best practices?

Newton, Watertown, Brookline: Much activity—need to get more details.

Concord: plastic bottles, climate actions, etc.

List of communities having sustainability directors and/or sustainability goals.