

Cranberry Bog Working Group
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2022 via Zoom

Members Present: Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Helen Young,
Brian Murphy, Luke Ascolillo

Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard

Public: Iva Mooney, Warren Lyman, Chris Spinney, Mark Barrow, Ariella Rebbi, John Ballentine

Meeting began at 7:03 pm

Chair Murphy initiated the meeting by doing a roll call of all members, administrators, and public. He then recited the Massachusetts governor's order and rules for conducting public meetings remotely. This meeting will be covered by the minutes and not recorded. Murphy also explained public input will be taken when the Chair asks for public input and will call on persons and each will have 3 minutes.

Agenda Item:

1. Reviewed the minutes from October and made changes suggested by Willard. Minutes were accepted with changes unanimously.
2. Heart Pond follow up - Murphy commented that we were still getting water from Heart Pond and Willard commented that Chelmsford is making repairs to their dam so that may be why.
3. Pump House removal - Willard has not had a chance to talk with Duffy as he has been away. Willard is planning to talk with the DPW to see if they could use it. Willard also was wondering what to do with the large pipes that were used. Murphy wondered who was the owner of the house. Parra commented that the pump house owner most likely was Duffy.
4. Bog Maintenance - Willard contacted Duffy about flume maintenance but isn't sure anything has been done. Flumes have been cleared by someone possibly Murphy.
5. DiPinto is willing to help with the NOI, but has been traveling. Will connect with her in January.
6. Mowing NOI - This is part of the work that DiPinto will help with. Not sure how much can get done. Willard was out with Debbie Geltner of the Land Stewardship Committee examining the sand covered bog to find what would be best to do with that area. Geltner There is concern that the Bog Under Renovation has a lot of pine trees and other bushes

that are getting pretty large. Willard was also concerned about buckthorn growing too. Rebbi wondered whether Boy or Girl Scouts could help by making maintenance as part of their annual activities. Ballentine wondered how to structure the NOI so that the various parts of the bog can be maintained with one NOI. Parra suggested that we make one NOI for hand removal of the pine trees. Parra felt if there was a reasonably large group it should go fairly easily. Willard commented that the best time is during the winter because the surface will be more frozen and solid. Parra volunteered to call DiPinto. Spinney and Ballentine offered equipment to move the cuttings. Murphy wondered about a burn of the cuttings. Willard was concerned about the wind blowing embers into surrounding pine trees. Spinney suggested renting a chipper and chip all the cuttings. Willard suggested that the DPW do the chipping as they have a chipper and a truck to collect the chips and would follow-up.

7. Committee Membership - Parra reported that Spang has opted out. Parra commented that there were openings on Cons Com and CBWG. Cons Com has been advertised. Willard had assistant look at the CBAC charter to remind us all what the group's charter was as originally proposed. Murphy asked Willard to advertise the position.
8. Bog Dam NOI - Willard has been working on it. Parra added that the NOI is on hold until the office of dam safety comments on the progress. Willard shared her screen to show the engineer plans and then explained it all to the group. Trails committee has a person who is a structural engineer who has designed boardwalk plans that the Trails Committee uses. Spinney commented that the overflow should be at the same level as the Chelmsford dam. That way both ponds are protected from damage. Also waiting on new detail from Stamski and McNary on the boardwalk. Willard is hoping that funding will be from CPC but the deadline is very soon and she is working on it. Ballentine expressed concern with the Chelmsford dam located on their Bog Reservation land.
9. Friends of the Bog - Murphy commented that having the Friends doing work will require good communication because the bog is a wetland and requires paperwork. Spinney liked the idea of the Boy Scouts helping. Friends would like to have a list of what the Friends Group could help with. Spinney made a list of items that need the most attention. The first was the clearing of the flumes and then the removal of the beaver dams. Ballentine would like to have basic parameters. Spinney commented that when the flumes are clear, we have control of the water level. With the beavers they have control. Ballentine wondered how do we set up a process for doing work. Parra suspected that the town would want a release from the workers and that maintenance of existing features does NOT require an NOI. Ballentine wondered if the Trails Committee has a release. Willard says the Trails Committee is a town committee and is covered by the town's insurance. Ballentine suggested a simple declaration of job, what will be done, and who will do it. Parra said he will ask Town Council about the release. Spinney thought that one good cleaning before the freeze would be good. Ballentine and Spinney will make a form and a web site for the Friends of the Carlisle Bog. Spinney commented

that the pipes could be sold for a bit at a recycling place.

10. Phragmites update - Bakewell has not been out. Willard will try to get the DPW out to cut the dead stuff so that if there is new growth we will see it.
11. Water levels - Murphy asked whether there would be more releases. Willard said there was the usual fall one and then one more so that Chelmsford could work on the dam. Spinney thought they would be limited to how much they could lower the pond. Murphy wants to add flash boards at the Curve Street Dam to help with charging the ground water level following the drought and potentially flooding of the bogs. Willard doesn't want it because it is dangerous. Parra asked if Bill Risso could take a look at it.
12. Maintenance update - Willard has talked with Duffy, but Duffy doesn't have an agreement yet because it needs an NOI. Parra said Duffy has a standard agreement which asks for 65% of the bog mowed and this year asked for tree cutting, but can't do both for the existing money. Now that the bog is a wetland and not in agriculture he needs an order of conditions to do the work. Murphy brought up that they are not paying any rent and that has value. Willard said having residents is important to the upkeep of the bog house. Ballentine wondered if the NOI could be for multiple years. Parra said he hoped we could do lots of smaller NOI's
13. Mooney wondered what the charter of the Friends of the Carlisle Bog was. Parra replied that this was a volunteer group that would do simple maintenance. Ballentine said this group would be a sub-group of the CBWG and will have a web page.
14. Next meeting - December 19, 2022 at 7 pm with limited agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm