



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

# Town of Carlisle

JULY 2024

*Sign up for the Town Website's News Flashes to be notified of the next edition!*

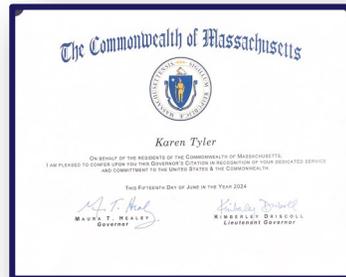
## Carlisle Firefighter/EMT Chris Waggett graduates from Fire Academy



On June 27, Carlisle Firefighter/EMT Chris Waggett graduated from the Fire Academy with his national Firefighter I and II certifications. Congratulations Chris!



## Congrats Veteran Services Director Karen Tyler!



Veteran Services Director Karen Tyler received citations attended a Women's Veterans Day event in June and received citations from Auditor DiZoglio, Secretary Santiago and Governor Healey.

-  @townofcarlislema
-  @townofcarlisle
-  @townofcarlisle
-  @townofcarlisle

Photo courtesy Judy Asarkof



carlislema.gov

# Welcome John Keating to the Board of Health!

John Keating has been appointed to the vacant BOH position as of July 9. His term will expire at the Annual Town Election of 2025.

John is not new to volunteering in Carlisle, having been involved with the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee, the Deer Advisory Committee, and the Conservation Foundation, to name a few!

Thank you for filling this very important role!



## From Town Administrator Ryan McLane

Major projects of resident interest begin this summer including the deconstruction of the Greenough Barn, the 2024 Paving and Road Repair Program, replacing the lighting in the Corey Auditorium, and constructing a dog park on the Banta Davis Playing Fields.

The Greenough Barn Deconstruction Project will begin the week of July 22. The plan includes preserving the barn's cupola, retaining a generous portion of the roof's slate, relocating the barn's middle section, and recycling more than 95 percent of the remaining materials. The cupola will become a Greenough Land information kiosk and the slate will be reused on multiple Town structures. I am proud of the Town staff for their commitment to this project and meeting the stated goals of a sustainable and safe deconstruction.

The 2024 Paving and Road Repair Program will proceed in August under the capable direction of our DPW. The project includes new and improved surfaces for the following streets and roads: Church, Curve Proctor, Prospect, River, and School. Additionally, the DPW will assist with the repair of the Westford Street Culvert and with pavement-saving crack sealing.

The Town will also see two large capital projects begin this fall. First, the Recreation Commission will lead the construction of a dog park at the Banta Davis Fields. This dog park will not replace existing fields but enhance the space to allow for more recreation programming. Next, our facilities department will oversee the long-overdue replacement of the lighting system in the CPS Corey Auditorium. These replacements will not only increase safety, but also enhance the learning experience and improve public activities like Town Meeting.

We hope you will enjoy these Town improvements and we appreciate the community's continued investment and involvement in Carlisle's service delivery. If you would like to learn more about these projects or organize a tour, please contact my office directly.

# Town Hall Non-Cultivar Native Flower Beds

*Environmental Sustainability Committee*

The flower beds flanking the entrance to Town Hall and the flower bed on the side of the building facing the parking lot have been planted with native, non-cultivar species in an effort to provide ecologically meaningful choices in landscaping. Including some of these or other non-cultivar native plants in your garden will support specialist and generalist insects, birds and native wildlife.

The non-cultivar/straight native species you will find at the Town Hall flower beds are:

## Front entrance flower beds

New Jersey Tea Plant  
(*Ceanothus americanus*)



Shrubby cinquefoil  
(*Dasiphora floribunda*)



Canada wildflower  
(*Anemone Canadensis*)



## Parking lot flower bed

Steeplebush  
(*Spiraea tomentosa*)



Meadowsweet  
(*Spiraea alba*)



Inkberry Holly  
(*Ilex glabra*)



Low bush blueberry  
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



High bush blueberry  
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



Cranesbill geranium  
(*Geranium maculatum*)



Pussy willow  
(*Salix discolor*)



Sweet fern  
(*Comptonia peregrina*)



Three toothed cinquefoil  
(*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*)



Violet  
(*Viola*)



# 1st Quarter Taxes for FY25 due August 1<sup>st</sup>



The Treasurer/Collector's office would like to remind homeowners that 1st Quarter taxes for FY25 are due on August 1st. Taxes can be paid online through the Town of Carlisle's website, mailed to the PO Box in Boston listed on your bill or to 66 Westford St., Carlisle, MA 01741, or paid in person Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Please note that the Post Office box in Reading and Post Office Box 614 in Carlisle were closed some time ago; payments sent to these boxes could result in your payment arriving past the due date.**



**UNIPAY**  
by UNIBANK



## IMPORTANT TRANSFER STICKER PURCHASE UPDATE

Starting Monday, July 1,  
stickers must be purchased  
online and picked up at the  
Police Station (41 Lowell St).





## Mosquito-Borne Illness

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

*Mosquitoes can spread diseases that make you sick. In Massachusetts, mosquitoes can give you eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus and West Nile virus (WNV). Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick. However, the best way to avoid both of these illnesses is to prevent mosquito bites.*



#### How is the EEE virus spread?

The virus that causes EEE is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. In Massachusetts, the virus is most often identified in mosquitoes found in and around freshwater, hardwood swamps. More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).

#### What is the treatment for EEE?

There is no treatment for EEE. In Massachusetts, about half of the people identified with EEE died from the infection. People who survive this disease will often be permanently disabled. Few people recover completely.

#### How common is EEE in Massachusetts?

EEE is a very rare disease. Since the virus was first identified in Massachusetts in 1938, just over 110 cases have occurred. The majority of cases typically have been from Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk counties. However, in an active year human cases can occur throughout the state.

#### How to protect yourself from EEE?

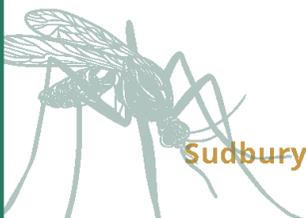
- Schedule outdoor events to avoid the hours between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active
- When you are outdoors, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and socks
- Use a repellent with DEET
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house by repairing any holes in your screens and making sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows
- Remove areas of standing water around your home

#### What are the symptoms of EEE?

The first symptoms of EEE are fever (often 103° to 106°F), stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy. These symptoms show up three to ten days after a bite from an infected mosquito. Inflammation and swelling of the brain, called encephalitis, is the most dangerous and frequent serious complication. The disease gets worse quickly and some patients may go into a coma within a week.



**Find local risk levels for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) based on seasonal testing**



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# School Committee July Update

In June the school committee closed out the school year with presentations on the work of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Council (DEICAC) and community member John Ballantine's analysis of student enrollment trends and school campus utilization. The DEICAC discussed their work this year including, among much ongoing work in professional development and curriculum support, the focus in the Fall on Indigenous Peoples, Winter on Black Excellence and Spring on Pride. Goals for the coming year include expanding on last year's work, particularly that of the Fall, and facilitating truth-telling and conflict resolution and healing. John Ballantine discussed Carlisle demographics as they relate to predicting school enrollment in order to begin broader conversations about how to optimize our campus use. Recordings of both presentations can be found here: [DEICAC](#) and [Enrollment](#)

We also heard from the Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator and Chair of the Sustainability Committee on the Climate Leaders and Green Communities 2.0 Programs. A recording can be found [here](#). On July 18, the Committee will vote on endorsing this work of creating a road map to sustainability.

Finally, we completed the annual Superintendent Evaluation. Superintendent O'Shea received a proficient rating with committee members particularly commending his communication skills and engagement.

The following are direct quotes from Members' evaluations: "The CPS community is lucky to have a compassionate and experienced leader in Jim." "I have been pleasantly surprised at Jim's willingness to learn new schools of thought, new approaches to learning- both in and out of the classroom and seeing value in gaining outside expertise on key topics like technology, diversity, and process around staff retention." "Jim's greatest achievement this past year is his continued focus on connecting the school with the town and finding ways of collaborating together. The centralized approach to facilities and the start of a shared HR function are wins for all." "Mr. O'Shea is constantly working at the intersections of student learning, district needs, infrastructure maintenance, community and stakeholder engagement. He manages this while maintaining a climate of mutual commitment, respect and trust." "Through shared leadership, the district sustains a focus on student learning through a clear vision, high expectations and dynamic leadership among all levels."

Greater takeaways from each section of the evaluation are as follows:

**Instructional Leadership:** Superintendent Jim O'Shea is recognized for his exemplary leadership under pressure, maintaining composure, poise, and dignity in challenging situations. His ability to navigate difficulties with resilience and optimism inspires confidence and a sense of calm within the school community. Jim's commitment to initiatives supporting students, providing professional development for teachers, and fostering inclusivity is unwavering, positioning him as a steadfast advocate for the Carlisle Community. His impact on CPS is profound, creating a workplace where everyone feels valued and empowered to excel. Colleagues commend his collaborative approach in managing instructional changes and the implementation of programs like the Teacher Mentor Program, which has garnered praise for its positive impact. While navigating the complexities of data *(Continued on Page 7)*

## *School Committee Update, Continued*

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*(Continued from Page 6)* utilization and operational optimization, Jim's leadership ensures CPS remains responsive and effective in meeting diverse student needs and enhancing educational outcomes. His strategic focus on continuous improvement reflects his dedication to the school's mission and the well-being of its community.

**Management and Operations:** Jim O'Shea excels in resource allocation and utilization, ensuring efficient management of financial resources, personnel, and infrastructure while prioritizing the town's needs. "Jim has been the point person working closely with Andy Paquette from TMS to manage the schools' finances." He has introduced exit interviews to gather insights from departing faculty, a new practice that enhances organizational understanding. Collaborating effectively with the Town Administrator, Jim has successfully coordinated roles like the Town Facilities Director. Colleagues commend his collaborative approach, noting, "Jim's approachable demeanor and willingness to listen make him an invaluable collaborator," fostering an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives are valued. Members suggest continued focus on retention and mentoring, leveraging feedback from exit interviews and enhancing HR resources. Jim's leadership in supporting initiatives like the revised mentor program demonstrates his ability to inspire and empower others while making informed decisions that benefit the district.

**Family and Community:** Jim O'Shea actively fosters a sense of belonging that extends beyond the classroom, forging partnerships with community organizations and town leaders to integrate CPS seamlessly with the broader Carlisle community. "Actively listening and engaging in hard conversations is something that Jim has leaned into in '23-'24." His presence at community events and support for key initiatives demonstrates his commitment to students, families, and faculty alike. Members highlighted Jim's exceptional visibility and dedication: "Jim goes above and beyond to make connections not only with school families but also members of the greater Carlisle Community." His collaboration with the Council on Aging (COA) ensures broader community engagement and connectedness. His extensive support for various community groups, underscores his role in fostering a thriving sense of belonging among teachers, students, and residents. He was often praised for his proactive community engagement, attending town meetings to understand diverse perspectives and advocate effectively during budget deliberations. Jim's leadership exemplifies a commitment to collaborative partnership, enhancing educational outcomes and community cohesion in Carlisle.

**Professional Culture:** Jim and the CPS administration team have made significant strides in enhancing cultural proficiency, greatly benefiting all CPS students. The recent curriculum updates, such as the revised Indigenous Peoples project in third grade, illustrate CPS's ongoing commitment to improving lessons to better serve students. Jim motivates everyone in the CPS community to introspect and refine their methods and styles to better support CPS students. Mr. O'Shea exemplifies continuous learning. He is both reflective and adaptable, earning praise for his collaborative strengths and effective information sharing.

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# From the Department of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director

Howdy folks,

We here at the D.P.W. hope you all had a “BLAST” on the 4th of July and enjoyed all the festivities on Old home day!

Here are some updates on what we’ve been working on. We are currently doing some much-needed road side mowing which will be ongoing until July 19th. After which we will handle smaller mowing projects on our own. Also, we have a tentative date for the start of our 2024 paving projects! Milling and paving will commence the week of August 12th. Please refer to the town website on which roads will be paved. Lastly (for now) we are painting crosswalks and stop lines all throughout the town.

As always, we thank you for your patience and support!



# From the Council on Aging and Human Services

**Grillin' and Chillin'!** 🍔🔪 Our annual summer BBQ, masterfully grilled by Al Foote, was a hit! Great food, great company, and unforgettable memories.



**Join us** for a weekly Drop-In Coffee Hour this summer! We meet twice a week at Fern’s and the opposite weeks in the Clark Room at Town Hall. Don't miss our second Ice Cream Social on August 22 at 3:00 PM. For more details, visit our website at [Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services](#).



## Cultural Council News July 2024



### Coming Soon — FY25 Local Cultural Grants

The annual **Local Cultural Council** grant round is coming up! Funds for this round of grants are provided by The **Massachusetts Cultural Council**. The application period typically runs from September 1 through mid-October.

Organizations and individuals are eligible to apply for grants in support of cultural events, lectures or workshops that will benefit Carlisle residents. **Now** is the time to be planning programs that will take place through December 2025.

Visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/> to learn more. Check out the Carlisle Cultural Council's local priorities before applying too. <https://www.carlislema.gov/408/Grants-Information>. We will update these for FY25 by August 31.

The members of the Carlisle Cultural Council are committed to promoting the arts, music, history, culture and the humanities in Carlisle. We serve the community by supporting both participatory and audience-based cultural and arts activities which benefit local residents.

What we mean by culture: music, dance, theater, fine art, pop art, graphic arts, sculpture, photography, multimedia, fiber arts, ethnic customs, culinary arts, humanities, literature, poetry, nature, gardening, woodworking, ceramics, storytelling, history, science, language and more...

We look forward to some exciting program ideas!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day

We had a marvelous time! And a tornado didn't ruin everything.

Thank you to all the music lovers who came out to enjoy the rich talent among us! On Sunday we saw many of you for nearly the entire seven-and-a-half hours. That's devotion!

Our simple goal when we created the Carlisle Music Festival was to provide a platform for Carlisle-based musicians to play for their fellow townspeople, their fans, and themselves. We couldn't be more thrilled that this simple goal brings so much joy to so many people on all sides of the stage.

We're already planning our encore for 2025!

### Upcoming events

We'll be announcing our annual Grant Recipient reception soon. It's where we thank the excellent cultural program producers in town. It's open to the public so you can meet them, and us, too.

# From the Trails Committee

## Riverfest Walk - Sunday, July 21

Join the Carlisle Trails Committee on Sunday July 21 in a celebration of our local Wild and Scenic River as part of RiverFest 2023. The public is invited to a 3.5 mile walk through meadows and forests on trails paralleling the Concord River. We will start at the Foss Farm conservation land and pass through Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge and the O'Rourke farm on the way to scenic Greenough Pond in the Greenough conservation land. If the water level is low enough we will return through the floodplain via the River Trail, or else retrace our steps. The walk starts at 1:00 pm and should finish by 4:00. A shorter walk will also be offered if there is interest. Meet at the Foss Farm parking lot, 0.3 mi west of the Concord River bridge on Rte. 225. Waterproof shoes, sunscreen, drinking water and insect repellent are recommended. Refreshments will be served at the end of the walk. Please note that dogs are excluded from the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.



# Climate Leaders: Quick Facts

*Sarah Wasserman, Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator*

### What is the Climate Leaders Program?

The Climate Leaders program is an extension of the Green Communities program, which provides funding for municipal energy efficiency projects. Climate Leaders will help communities by providing funding towards **net zero carbon emission** goals. Carlisle has been a Green Community since 2011, and becoming a Climate Leader will allow the town to gain access to more funding for a broader array of energy efficiency projects.



### How do we qualify?

Town staff, boards, and committees are currently working on the application. Carlisle is **ahead of the pack** because we already have three out of the six requirements fulfilled.

- ✓ **Green Community in good standing**
  - ✓ **Specialized Stretch Code**
  - ✓ **Sustainability Committee**
  - Decarbonization commitment (by 2050)
  - Zero-Emission Vehicle First policy (for light-duty vehicles)
  - Decarbonization roadmap
- } Completed
- } In Progress

### If Carlisle becomes a Climate Leader, is it set in stone?

As technologies evolve, so will Carlisle, and Climate Leaders is designed to adapt to these changes. There is nothing that binds Carlisle to staying a Climate Leader, but by making a commitment **aligned with State goals**, the town can benefit from the current available funding, which can be used towards everything from EV charging, to microgrids, to geothermal systems.



Questions? [swasserman@carlislema.gov](mailto:swasserman@carlislema.gov)

# From the Gleason Public Library

## Summer Reading 2024: Read, Renew, Repeat

Summer reading for all ages is in full swing at the Gleason! [Visit gleasonlibrary.org](https://gleasonlibrary.org) for all the details, to register for programs, or to download reading logs and Bingo boards. Reading challenges close Tuesday, August 27th. Sponsored by the Gleason Public Library, the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, the Carlisle Cultural Council, the Susan Zielinski Natural Science Fund, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

### Reading Raffle for Grades K-8

Keep track of your reading to earn raffle entries this summer! Get one raffle ticket for every 15 minutes you read. Bring your reading log to the library to receive your tickets, and then choose which raffle prize you'd like to try to win.

### Book Bingo for Pre-K to Adult

Read your way to a Bingo and win a prize. Fill all the squares on your Bingo card for a blackout and win a bigger prize! Books must be at the reader's reading level. Limit one Bingo and blackout per child.

### Upcoming Event Highlights (register at [gleasonlibrary.org/events](https://gleasonlibrary.org/events)):

- Mo Willems Story Time with Strega Mama - Sat. 7/27, 10:30 a.m.
- Summer Concert with Stacey Peasley - Tues. 7/30, 6 p.m. on the Library Lawn, supported in part by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council
- Summer Concert with the Backtrack Band - Wed. 8/7, 6 p.m. on the Library Lawn, supported in part by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council
- Bluey Story Time with Strega Mama - Sat. 8/10, 10:30 a.m.
- Didgeridoo Down Under – Thurs. 8/15, 6:30 p.m.

*Kids' Crafts on the Lawn (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on alternate Fridays; email [childrens@gleasonlibrary.org](mailto:childrens@gleasonlibrary.org) to register)*

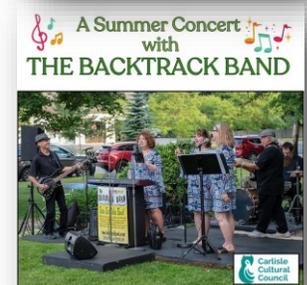
7/19: Foil Leaf Butterflies and Turtles

8/2: Let's Make Slime

8/16: Let's Make Our Own Action Superhero Cape

### Stuffy Sleepover

Some local stuffies got up to all kinds of fun in this summer's first Stuffed Animal Sleepover - [check out their merry slideshow here](#). We'll be hosting another one on Tuesday, August 20th; registration is currently full but spaces may open up, so you can [sign up for the waiting list on our website here](#).



# From the Gleason Public Library, Continued from Page 11



### Gleason Library Summer Hours

Summer Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. are in effect at the Gleason Public Library through July and August; weekday hours remain the same throughout the summer. Regular hours resume after Labor Day.

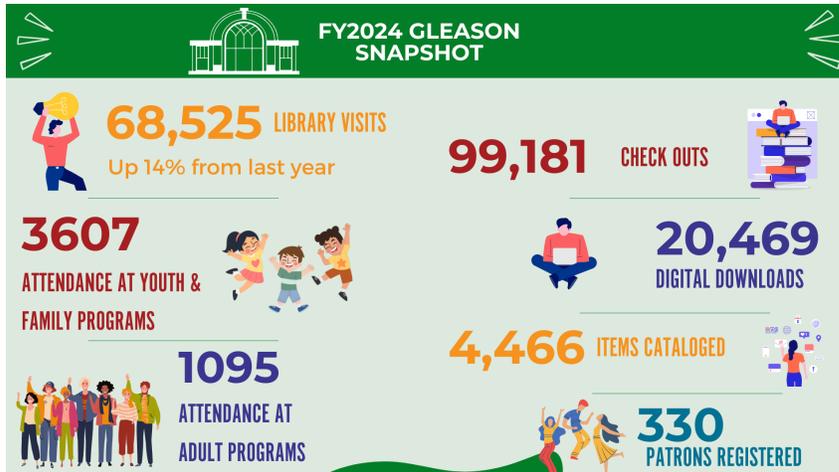
### Ferns Talk & Walk

Randy Stone, from the Pioneer Valley Fern Society, will present a workshop on native fern identification and ecology on Saturday, July 27th, that will be helpful and informative for anyone interested in learning how to identify ferns. The program will start with an indoor session at the library (30-40 minutes, starting at 12pm), including a PowerPoint presentation that will cover basic fern biology, identification techniques, and ecology. This will be followed by a field session at Estabrook Woods that will use these techniques for the positive field identification of more than a dozen native fern species in their natural habitats. Including both the presentation and the field walk, the program will last about 3 hours. Presented by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation and the Gleason's Susan P. Zielinski Natural Science Fund.

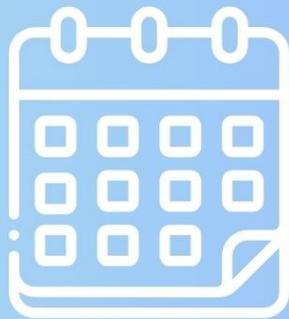
### Gleason Capital Campaign Matching Challenge

A very generous donor will match up to \$100,000 for our library renovation! This matching campaign will be running until July 31.

We are more than halfway to this matching goal; please join us to meet the challenge! [Read more on our website here.](#) To find out about ways to give, including by check payable to "Gleason Library Endowment", by Paypal, and more, [please click here.](#)



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE HOURS



Chat with Carlisle's Town Planner and Sustainability Coordinator about planning for Carlisle's climate resilient future!



Where: Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street,  
Carlisle, MA 01741



When: 1st Tuesday of the Month, 11am - 1pm

For information on language services, or  
other questions, contact:



[jmercier@carlislema.gov](mailto:jmercier@carlislema.gov)



Town of  
**Carlisle**  
MASSACHUSETTS

# Carlisle's requirements for Accessory Apartments are proposed to change



**Carlisle Planning Board  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, August 12th  
8:30 PM  
Clark Room & Zoom**

Questions? Comments?  
Julie Mercier, Town Planner  
jmercier@carlislema.gov



Scan the QR code above or  
click the link below  
to read all about it!

<https://www.carlislema.gov/1196/Accessory-Apartment---2024-Updates-to-By>

## MBTA COMMUNITIES

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CARLISLE?

#### THE FACTS

Under the MBTA Communities Act, Carlisle is considered an **adjacent small town**. This means we must **zone** for **5%** of the town's housing stock, or **95 new units**, at a minimum gross density of **15 units per acre**.



**!! ALL DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO MBTA COMMUNITIES ZONING  
WILL BE SUBJECT TO  
COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE 5 AND THE WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT !!**

#### COMPLIANCE



Carlisle has until **December 2025** to comply. **Non-compliance** means the town will be ineligible for critical state funding and puts the town at risk of **civil enforcement action**.

#### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The **MBTA Communities Subcommittee** is exploring the feasibility of compliance by **analyzing areas of town and zoning tools**. We are currently receiving free technical assistance from a consultant.



LEARN MORE: <https://www.carlislema.gov/1195/MBTA-Communities>

### TAKE OUR SURVEY & TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS:



Access the survey at this link:  
<https://rb.gy/orpm04>

The survey is meant for Carlisle residents only.  
It is 8 questions and should take ~ 5 minutes.

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact Town Planner Julie Mercier  
jmercier@carlislema.gov

# Exploring the wonders of Foss Farm

Judy Asarkof of Land Stewardship Committee helped Jef Taylor of Urban Nature Walks lead a group of folks from all over Massachusetts explore the wonders of Foss Farm.

Bluebirds, insects on milkweed plants, mushrooms, beautiful native plants and sand-plain habitat specialists were the highlights. Good time had by all!



# Greenough Barn Deconstruction

## TIMELINE



JULY 29 -  
AUGUST 2

- Mobilize
- Salvage Cupola
- Salvage Slate
- Superstructure South

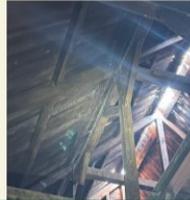
week 1



AUGUST  
12 - 16

- Salvage Main Barn
- Substructure North

week 4



week 5

### PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- 90-95% salvage/reuse/recycle rate
- cupola & slate repurposed in Carlisle
- middle main section of barn relocated to a property in Concord...

Picture Barn Here...

JULY  
22 - 26

- Fence Install
- Erosion Control
- Rodent Control
- Demolition Permit



AUGUST  
5 - 9

- Superstructure South
- Superstructure North
- Salvage Main Barn
- Substructure South



AUGUST  
19 - 23

- Salvage Main Barn
- Substructure Center
- Import/Place Backfill
- Fall 2024: Loam/Seed



Photo Credits: Carlisle Historical Society & Environmental Sustainability Committee



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[@townofcarlisle](https://www.instagram.com/townofcarlisle)

