

Lincoln Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2016

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jim Meadors, Peter von Mertens, Ari Kurtz, and Jordan McCarron
STAFF PRESENT: Tom Gumbart, Angela Kearney, Jennifer Burney

CONSERVATION PLANNER'S REPORT & DISCUSSION

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update: Angela Kearney offered an update on the current status of the OSRP Update. She outlined her current duties and projects, explained how much extra volunteer time beyond her allotted work hours she put into completing the 2008 plan and that her current life does not afford her the same amount of extra time. She expects to be very involved in the update process and has already drafted some of the key sections of the plan. Angela Kearney distributed a packet of information for the Commission's further review. Jennifer Burney, Planning Director shared her experience from Southborough, which is currently going through an OSRP Update process with the help of the Conway School. She offered a summary on the experience and assistance we will gain if we work with the Conway School. Jennifer Burney outlined the next steps if the Commission decides to move forward with the update and stated that for time and opportunity reasons, it makes a lot of sense to hire a graduate school team or consultant to help with aspects or all of the update. Funding for the update will come from the Town Administrator's budget.

The Commission **voted 4-0** to move forward with the OSRP Update with assistance from a consultant or team of graduate students. Angela Kearney will facilitate the effort.

WETLAND FILINGS

Notice of Intent. Zeis Lincoln One LLC. 0 Lexington Road (144-9-0)

Dave Burke, wetland resource specialist, represented the applicant with a Notice of Intent to construct a new, single-family home and associated landscape features on a previously undeveloped, 2.16-acre lot. The new house and garage will have a footprint of approximately 3,700 square feet with the closest point of permanent disturbance approximately 65 feet from the wetland resource area. All work will be located outside the 50-foot Buffer Zone Resource Area, the applicant is proposing a deed restriction and post & beam fence in order to protect the inner 50-foot Buffer Zone Resource Area in perpetuity. In addition, two wooded knolls at the front of the property, along Lexington Road, will be protected with construction fence and included in the deed-restricted area. Approximately 25 trees will be removed during the project. The septic system and grading were minimized as much as possible and all stormwater runoff will be captured and infiltrated into three stormtech basins.

The Commission noted the proposed work. They requested that the construction fence be extended to protect the wooded knolls along Lexington Road. They indicated that substantial trees in proximity to the work area should be wrapped with boards and construction fence. Peter Von Mertens asked the applicant if they could explore options for scaling down the house and moving it closer to 70-feet from the wetland resource area. Jim Meadors agreed, give the typical encroachment farther into the buffer zone once homeowners are living in and maintaining the home. Tom Gumbart asked the applicant to explore the options for decreasing the amount of grading behind the garage and installing a block retaining wall.

The Commission asked for feedback from the public. Abutters, Brooks and Pattie Mostue asked what the plans are for vegetative screening. They asked what the potential is for lawn and chemical runoff into the wetland below. They asked that all trees to be removed be flagged in the

field. They were supportive of the proposed deed restriction and expressed their desire to see native and naturalized plantings with a prevalent understory. The Mostue's were not in favor of exploring a variance from ZBA to allow the house to move closer to Lexington Road. Abutter, Ken Hurd requested that the Commission extend the hearing until the Planning Board has a chance to review the plan. Michael Bolton attended the hearing and stated that he has known the applicant for many years. He is supportive of the applicant's work ethic and quality.

Jim Meadors summarized the discussion and stated that they needed to continue the hearing until the options of decreasing the size and shifting the house farther from the wetland were explored. He asked that they explore more sensitive options for fitting the house into the existing landscape and relocating the driveway to the existing entrance so that screening remains across the front of the house.

If approved, the following conditions shall be addressed and included in the decision:

- Restriction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Preservation of the existing knolls along Lexington Road
- Review meeting and regularly-scheduled site visits during construction

The Commission **voted 4-0** to continue the hearing to April 6th at 7:45pm

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Gumbart offered an update on several projects that are currently passing through the office. Particularly, he and Angela Kearney are working with the DPW and Planning Department on a Complete Streets Initiative. The Department is working with the LLCT, Birches School and other organizations on the People for Pollinators Project as well as a South Lincoln Design Project.

PRESENTATION

Charlotte Trim gave a presentation on 'Optimizing Pollination'. She stated that her goal is to work with and educate Town Government, organizations and residents to decrease the use of pesticides in Lincoln, particularly on the school grounds, public spaces and lawns. She briefly discussed her collaboration with Angela Kearney and others on the People for Pollinators Project and encouraged everyone to attend the Community Fair on April 30th at Pierce Park. Charlotte Trim stated that "wild bee richness is a better predictor of pollination than abundance." She cited a study indicating that farms see an increase in profit if 30% of the land is set aside to habitat. Charlotte Trim offered several plants that are rich pollinators including; golden rain tree, European linden, red currant, bee bee tree, buckwheat, beans, clover, almonds, apples, hazelnut, basswood, witch hazel, herbs and mountain mint. Plants that flower in July and August are particularly helpful for the pollinators. The Commission and public asked several questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Sub-Committee & Liaison Reports
- Other Reports & Announcements

ACTION ITEMS

- Meeting minutes approved from February 24, 2016
- Bills paid and payroll signed

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Kearney, Conservation Planner