

Lincoln Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2016

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Peter Von Mertens, Jim Henderson, Ari Kurtz, Ron Chester, Jordan McCarron, Richard Selden **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Gumbart, Angela Kearney

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Gumbart updated the Commission on outstanding wetland permits, management, and conservation-acquisition projects. He informed the Commission of a new buffer zone and wetlands clearing violation. Tom Gumbart was able to connect with the MBTA regarding a recent project and maintenance of the farm road at The Food Project.

CONSERVATION PLANNER'S REPORT

Angela Kearney updated the Commission on ongoing wetland, open space, and other planning projects.

WETLANDS FILINGS

7:30pm Request for Determination from Applicability. Keolis Commuter Services MP 15.74 (179-14-0).

Peter Von Mertens opened the public hearing. Dave Gordon of PEER consultants represented Keolis Commuter Services with a Request for Determination of Applicability and plan to replace a granite box culvert (former cattle crossing) with a Class V 36-inch reinforced concrete pipe for structural reinforcement. The culvert will be embedded into the subgrade and supported by a concrete headwall with wing walls where each end of the culvert daylight. The slope from the tracks to the wing walls and the inlet and outlet of the culvert will be stabilized with rip-rap. All work will take place from the tracks and outside of the wetland resource area. Water that is encountered during the project will be pumped and filtered through a silt sac prior to discharge into a straw bale containment area. Extra soil from the excavation will be placed in designated areas along the tracks and seeded with a conservation mix.

Peter Von Mertens asked, "how much water has passed through the crossing in the past 100 years?" Dave Gordon stated that there is no water flow or hydrologic connection through the cattle crossing. Jordan McCarron asked how much space will be provided for wildlife to pass through. Dave Gordon noted the open area will be roughly 30".

Materials reviewed during the public hearing: Photos and Culvert Plan MP 15.74 dated June 17, 2016. The Commission **voted 4-0** to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination of Applicability.

7:45pm Notice of Intent. Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department. 1-8 Ballfield Road (143-15-0).

Peter Von Mertens opened the public hearing. The project was represented by Daniel Pereira, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, Jonathan Dwyer, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Jason Lavoie, P.E. with the Jillson Company. The hearing was a culmination of a series of meetings and site visits over the past year to lay the groundwork for this Sport Court project. The planning and full exploration of alternative locations was excellent and the project will have great benefit to the students and residents who will use the facility.

The plan is to install a porous, interlocking Sport Court in the existing Tot Lot adjacent to the Brooks School/Codman Pool parking lot. The playground structures will be retained but will need to be moved to accommodate the new layout. The location is ideal since it has good parking, is easily viewed by public safety personnel, the lighting will not affect abutting property owners, and it will not intrude on any of the existing ballfields that take up most of the level ground around the Schools. Also, it is already flat and mostly clear of vegetation. Four trees will need to be removed but new plantings and invasives control will mitigate for this.

Sport Court work is proposed within the 100-foot buffer zone resource area and the riverfront resource area. However, only 125 sq. ft. of additional disturbance will be within the inner 50-foot buffer zone and the work will be entirely outside the inner 100-foot riverfront resource area. There will be no additional stormwater discharge after construction. The Conservation Commission also approved the installation of a small footbridge to allow direct access between the Court and the Codman Pool/Ballfield area, provided it is sited to avoid the removal of native trees.

The Commission **voted 4-0** to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions allowing work to proceed.

The Commission conducted a site visit on July 20, 2016. Materials Reviewed during the public hearing: Tot Lot Ballfield Road Site Plan dated June 9, 2016, Required Tables & Checklist.

8:15pm Notice of Intent. Seth & Lynne Miller. 15 Stonehedge Road (186-31-0)

Peter Von Mertens opened the public hearing. Applicant's, Seth and Lynne Miller and their representative David Burke attended the public hearing with a Notice of Intent and plans to construct a new, single-family home and associated landscape features on a previously developed, 2-acre lot. Work within the outer Buffer Zone Resource Area includes 331 square feet of grading. The 2,456 square foot house and garage, new driveway and septic tanks will be located entirely within the outer Riverfront Area, but on the footprint of the existing house. The project will result in approximately 800 square feet of new, impervious area within the outer Riverfront Area.

The septic system will be located outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone and outside the 200-foot Riverfront Resource Area. Topsoil will be stockpiled in the septic system area during construction. Stormwater runoff will be captured and infiltrated into one cultec basin and one grass swale along the northern edge of the driveway. Post-construction, peak-discharge rates and volumes will be decreased from pre-construction rates by approximately 9.5%.

The Commission reviewed the proposal and noted the applicant's effort to work within the existing house and driveway footprint. They requested that the septic tanks be pulled closer to the house if conditions allow during excavation work. This will allow the graded slope to be pulled out of the 100-foot Buffer Zone Resource Area and it may allow for the preservation of one large tree at the limit of work line. The Commission noted that it is likely that the two trees identified for preservation will need to be removed.

Members of the Commission and Department conducted a site visit on July 20th.

Documents Reviewed During the Hearing: Notice of Intent Plan dated June 23rd and revised July 28th.

The Commission **voted 4-0** to close the hearing & issue an Order of Conditions allowing work to proceed.

8:45pm Notice of Intent. Lincoln Schools. 1-8 Ballfield Road (143-15-0)

Peter Von Mertens opened the public hearing. The following individuals attended the public hearing for the applicant: Buckner Creel, Lincoln School's Administrator for Business and Finance, Joshua Burgel, Landscape Architect, and Mike Cole, Solid Earth Technologies. The hearing was a culmination of a series of meetings and site visits over the past few years to lay the groundwork for this boardwalk project. The planning and attention to detail was excellent and the project will have great benefit to the students and other users of the boardwalk. The current drought conditions actually make this summer a perfect time for installation.

Ultimately the plan is for a loop trail extending from the Smith School to the existing route of a former boardwalk in the wetland. An observation deck will allow visitors, including entire classes, to gather, observe, and enjoy the wetland environment. A connector boardwalk will extend to the north, landing at the historic Muster Field, at which point the path turns east, skirting the edge of the field and joining an existing path. This existing path connects the Schools with Baker Bridge Rd. The path will be resurfaced from the join to the school and a small boardwalk will re-cross the wetland adjacent to a small stone bridge. Nearly 100% of the project is within bordering vegetated wetlands or the buffer zone resource areas. The resource contains a wide range of obligate wetland plants and includes wooded swamp, open marsh and emergent shrub transitional zones.

- The boardwalk and trail will be handicapped accessible and low maintenance.
- Stabilized stonedust, a porous material, is proposed for the path.
- All earthwork and soils shall remain on site and be protected with erosion controls.
- Boardwalk made with helical piles, pressure-treated joists, & black locust wood decking.
- Black locust bumpers line the perimeter of the boardwalk and observation platform.
- The project is to be phased construction as shown in the plans.
- Phase 1 includes the work from the Smith School to the observation platform.

The following changes from the original Notice of Intent application were approved at the hearing:

- Wooden retaining wall (piling supported) and stabilized stone dust instead of the concrete entrance pad.
- Re-arrangement of the observation deck in order to preserve large/old buttonbush.
- Allowing the contractor to install decking; reserving the public/community volunteer time devoted to replanting and maintaining the vegetation - removing invasives.
- Minimal silt fencing installation as the very light duty installation methods proposed will be less impact than installing the silt fencing.
- Exact route within the wetlands can vary from the submitted plans to allow for a less linear path and to avoid native plants or obstacles such as stumps.

The Commission **voted 4-0** to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Sub-Committee & Liason Reports
- Other Reports & Announcements

ACTION ITEMS

- Order of Conditions Issued to Adam Sadowick. 233 Old Concord Road (140-20-0)
- Order of Conditions Issued to Tom Bucknall. 80 Tower Road (163-24-0)
- Order of Conditions Issued to Buckner Creel of Lincoln Schools. Ballfield Road (142-1-0)
- Negative Determination of Applicability Issued to Keolis Commuter Services (179-14-0)
- Meeting minutes approved from June 29, 2016
- Bills Paid and Payroll Signed

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Kearney, Conservation Planner