

Lincoln Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2019

Start – 7:00 pm
End – 9:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Ron Chester, Peter von Mertens, Larry Buell, Ari Kurtz, Jim Henderson

Staff Present: Tom Gumbart, Jennifer Curtin

7:00 p.m. – Crosby Corner/Route 2 Potential Mitigation Work at Ricci field

Attendees: Ingeborg Hegemann, Susan McArthur, Polina Safran

Susan McArthur from Mass DOT introduced the project. Nine years ago Mass DOT came before the commission for the Crosby's Corner project. The wetland impact of this project was too large for the Commission to allow it which required Mass DOT to go to MassDEP for a superseding Order of Conditions. A part of those conditions required replication of the wetlands that were altered. This meeting is to bring the Commission up to speed on replication potential on Conservation land, namely the Ricci Field.

Ingeborg Hegemann described the site visit that occurred with Conservation staff in January at Ricci. There were five potential areas (A-E) for mitigation on this parcel. She showed a soils map of the area which gives an idea of the geology of the area. Jim Henderson asked if there was a way to not use the back area (A) as this could potentially be used for farming in drought times. Ms. Hegemann said that she walked that area and that it was indeed very wet. Tom Gumbart also mentioned that this area may be considered state wetlands which would not allow for replication to take place there anyway. Ms. Hegemann then showed each potential area in depth with photographs and their potential for this mitigation project. For Area A there is an area further behind the wet area that is higher outside of the agricultural field which could have potential. She then showed Area B which has been mostly ruled out as it provides good habitat already. Area C is a pile of rocks, rubble and invasive species. This area would be good for wetland replication and would be fairly easy to do. Peter von Mertens asked if this would look like open pond at the end of the process and Ms. Hegemann said that it would be a scrub shrub area much like what is already there. She would create hummocks and hollows to help promote that habitat. It does take a while for the plants to get acclimated but they would look like a planted series of shrubs. Jim asked what the soil sections look like. Ms. Hegemann said that once it is decided whether or not this mitigation work would be allowed by the Commission on this land before they actually flag the wetland and take soil samples. Area D is an old borrow pit which has the potential for a new vernal pool. They could get 10-20k sq. ft. of mitigation from this one site and it would also allow for the most creativity. This would require wells by March to gather data. Area E is possible but could only be accessed from the field since the old cart path is too narrow. Mr. Gumbart said that this would be a benefit to the Agricultural field as this would increase water access.

Mr. von Mertens asked what they would need from the Commission to move on to the next steps. Ms. Hegemann said that the next steps would be further investigation and data collection once the commission decides whether or not they would allow this on the land. Ms. Hegemann said that they will give a plan with exactly where they will work and what kind of restoration will be done once work is finished. Ari Kurtz asked if there would be any agricultural benefits from this project as this is mostly agricultural land. Mr. Henderson said that they may find good soils which could be a benefit to the agricultural field. Mr. Gumbart said that a benefit would be invasives work and more light from tree removal. Mr. Kurtz said that options C and D look very good but the only disadvantage being that they will lose some trees. Mr. Henderson said that the loss of trees would allow for more sunshine in the early morning for the agricultural field. Ms. Hegemann said that they will not cut mature specimen trees. Mr. Gumbart said that any rocks that are pulled out could be used for rebuilding existing stone walls around town. Ms. MacArthur mentioned they could improve the area by rehabbing the existing road, which they would need to get equipment in and out anyway.

The Commission voted 5-0 to green light the further project development and data collection on Areas C, D, and E at Ricci Field.

7:45 request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) - Coffin Brown. 79 Old Sudbury Road (187-12-0).

Attendee: Margaret Brown

The applicant, Margaret Coffin Brown, presented the project. There was a site visit at the property this morning where several members of the Commission attended. The project is for a new gravel driveway and parking and associated grading leading to a proposed in-law apartment outside of the 50 ft. buffer. The actual pond on the property is outside of 100 ft. from the project area; however a small drainage ditch brings the buffer zone closer. The driveway will be ¾ in - gravel on top of minimal grading. The existing driveway is also gravel. The reason for the proposed driveway configuration is because of large rhododendrons, trees and a hill in the middle of the property. Mr. von Mertens mentioned that the Zoning Board of Appeals may require a second parking spot to consider the structure a true accessory apartment. Mr. Gumbart said that the decision can reflect a blessing from the Commission to allow a second spot if necessary without Ms. Brown having to appear again. Mr Kurtz said that there doesn't seem to be much impact to the wetland since the land is very flat which would not allow runoff to reach the resource area and the accessory structure is within the buffer zone already. Mr. Henderson asked what Ms. Brown plans to do with the excavated materials to which Ms. Brown responded that she will use it for agriculture as it is good loam. The Commission will also ask that any contractors will meet with Conservation staff to ensure they do not work closer to the wetland.

The Commission voted 5-0 to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination of Applicability at the next meeting.

8:00 p.m. - Notice of Intent: Valley Pond Corporation. 0 Conant Road (182-26-0)

Attendees: Peter Blackler, Naomi Valentine

Naomi Valentine presented the project. This permit is for the continued aquatic plant management of the swim pond on the Valley Pond Property. The cyanobacteria algae that is the problem for this pond is toxic to potentially toxic to humans and animals. Copper based algaecide, which is widely recognized as a safer option, has been used most recently. However, Hydrothol, salt of Endothall, is necessary for use if the alga stops responding to the copper. There is an earthen berm between the swim pond and boating pond, which has connections to the water supply, so there is little potential for contamination of the supply. They use a 3% max treatment at .05ppm when Hydrothol is necessary. They close swimming area for 24 hours after every treatment; however the levels that they treat at do not require it. Mr. von Mertens mentioned that barley straw is a potential technique and asked why they do not use that. Ms. Valentine said this is a preventative against string algae, not cyanobacteria. Jim Henderson mentioned that testing the well for bacteria may be necessary as well to determine if that may be a source. Mr. von Mertens asked if pond clarity is the issue but Ms. Valentine said that the health issue is the focus.

Ms. Valentine said that they are looking for a 5 year approval. Mr. von Mertens said that a 3 year would be more appropriate to allow for greater control as this is a new process. The Commission voted to issue an Order of Conditions for 3 years, with a yearly report to be submitted by the Pond group. At that time the Commission will determine if the group will need to come before the Commission for further clarification.

The Commission voted 5-0 to close the hearing and issue a 3-year Order of Conditions for pond treatment activities at Valley Swim Pond.

DIRECTORS REPORT

237 Old Concord Road will file NOI for restoration of the wetland buffer zone by the filing deadline tomorrow.

Orest and Victoria Hurko came in to ask if they need a new delineation for the rebuild of their home which was destroyed in a fire last year. Mr. Gumbart told them that the line they have is good enough for a filing as they plan to build on the same footprint or move further from the wetland.

There has been a request submitted to ZBA to put a dog daycare business on a property in an area zoned as residential. The property has wetland constraints and would require filing if this goes forward. Mr. Gumbart sent a memo to ZBA that the applicants will need to do a new delineation and to come before the Commission.

Adam Sodowick has yet to respond to letter sent by Conservation Staff. Mr. Gumbart will make another attempt at contact before issuing a formal Enforcement Order

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Conservation has lost access through Capital planning Committee to set aside funds. Conservation can still ask for funds, however it is not mandated that they will be received. At present, Conservation is still engaged to purchase Adams with the Rural Land Foundation (RLF). They still need to raise \$40k. Mr. von Mertens proposed that ConCom can donate \$10k more. Jim Henderson suggested that RLF reach out to others in town for donation and if they fall short then Conservation will provide up to an addition \$10k.

The Commission voted 5-0 to approve up to \$10k from the Conservation Fund if RLF fundraising falls short.

School Building project

Mr. von Mertens gave an update on the Lincoln School Building Project. There has been discussion of expanding an existing road into an isolated wetland resource area. This area could be used for stormwater management. Mr. Gumbart said that using permeable pavers would give the Town credit for stormwater management under the MS4 permit. Members of the Commission and Conservation staff will meet on Friday to discuss any issues with the School Building Project team. Mr. von Mertens plans to leave the Commission this year but will stay on until this project is permitted.

ACTIONS ITEMS

- Voted 5-0 to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 79 Old Sudbury Road.
- Voted 5-0 to green light the further project development and data collection on Areas C, D, and E at Ricci Field.
- Voted 5-0 to approve up to \$10k from the Conservation Fund if RLF fundraising falls short.
- Minutes approved from January 16
- Bills paid and payroll signed

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Curtin
Conservation Assistant