

**Lincoln Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2018

Start – 7:00 pm

End – 10:00 pm

**Commissioners present** - Peter von Mertens, Larry Buell, Jim Henderson, Richard Selden, Ron Chester, Ari Kurtz

**Staff present** – Tom Gumbart, Jennifer Curtin

**Memorial Bench Request**

Rosalind Williams and her two sons attended this meeting. She contacted Conservation Staff last fall inquiring about having a memorial bench for her husband to be placed on Old Sudbury Road near the trail area. He was a biker who really enjoyed cycling with friends along that scenic stretch of road. This opened up the discussion of what to consider for benches and where to put them in Town. The Commission decided that installing a total of 6-8 new benches makes good sense at this time for whole Town. There are maintenance issues to consider. The Commission believes that the family’s original request to place the bench on the roadside is not a good plan since it may be damaged by cars, plows, or road salt and those using it would be too close to traffic. However, there is a small pond and field inside the agricultural fencing that may be a nice area. Also, Peter von Mertens informed the family that a simple, backless stone bench is in keeping with the aesthetic of the trails and other benches that have been placed in Town. The family would like the bench to be oriented in a way where cyclists and walkers can sit on it and enjoy a view of the hill. They understand the maintenance point of view and the need for consistency. Based on a recent purchase it would likely be approximately \$1,200 for a full bench with engraving and plaque. Additional signage easily visible from the roadway could be added to bring attention to the trail and bench location. The Commission agrees that it may be better for the person/persons requesting the bench to handle most of the ordering process and that Conservation staff could assist with installation.

**CONSERVATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Jane Layton’s retirement party will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Gumbart will send a letter to the Selectman requesting road closures in the coming weeks for amphibian migration.

**WETLANDS**

**176 Bedford Road – Notice of Intent (113-67-0) Geoff Moore – Septic System Replacement**  
**Attendees:** Geoff Moore, Dave Schofield, Michele Grzenda

Peter von Mertens opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m. A site visit was conducted today and attended by David Schofield, Peter von Mertens, Larry Buell, Ari Kurtz, Jennifer Curtin, and Tom Gumbart. The engineer for the project, David Schofield, presented the plan for the project. The current leaching field is within the wetland itself so this project seeks to move the leaching field outside of the 100-foot buffer zone. Some work does need to be done within the 50 ft. buffer zone as the site is very tight. Some trees will be removed to make way for new construction. There will be a silt fence barrier at the edge of the lawn to keep the work out of the wetland. The power for the system will run under a gravel driveway from the side of the house.

The Commission **voted 6-0** to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions allowing the project to proceed.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Aquatic Herbicides Discussion**

Several ponds in Lincoln are treated with chemicals to control invasive plants and all water bodies in Lincoln have the potential to make their way into the drinking water system. The Commission plans a formal discussion for the next meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> during which the Commission will review the Tufts document on human health concerns with aquatic herbicides, solicit public feedback, and consider a formal policy on their usage. Wellesley has banned herbicides in public ponds and their efforts are a good model for what Lincoln could do to manage ponds in Town. Richard Selden says that homeowners just want clear ponds and that there are alternatives to achieving this goal without the use of herbicides. Morses pond in Wellesley, in response to the Town's policy on not allowing herbicides, figured out a way to employ organic herbicides in conjunction with physical removal and phosphorus reduction systems. The Commission will look to other success stories with regard to other Towns not using pesticides, the financial cost of employing these tactics, and possible reduction in herbicide/pesticides needs Town-wide. We will have to include working with homeowners and landowners to find plans that work for them financially and will allow for water clarity. There will need to be a review of the existing Order of Conditions for Farrar Pond, as well as other ponds. The Commissioners and Conservation staff will look into what is being done now on lands and waters we control, what the Schools do for plant management, what Lincoln Department of Public Works uses for herbicides/pesticides, what is used on railroad/gas line right of ways, what other towns have done, the cost and practicality of phosphorus reduction techniques, what exists for organic herbicides, what is used for mosquito control around Town, and what other organizations can be of assistance.

### **School Building Committee Update**

Christine Dugan will be at the meeting tonight as last Wednesday's meeting was rescheduled. A recent public meeting showed that the plan costing 88-89 million seemed to be the most popular. The Finance Committee is exploring ways that may help alleviate some of the tax increase that would be required, perhaps by using reverse mortgages.

### **Trail Use Regulations Update**

There will be a public meeting with LLCT/RLF after Town Meeting in early April to discuss bike regulations.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Agriculture**

The Committee is working on a new Farm Stewardship Policy. New licensing requests from farmers will be due soon. Two farmers, Ellery Kimball of Blue Heron Organic Farm, and Erik Jacobs of Plough and Stars, have decided to discontinue farming in Lincoln. The Agricultural Subcommittee is considering the establishment of a farm stand on the Umbrello land where Blue Heron was. This will require coordination with other farmers to create a cooperative of some sort to operate the stand. Ari Kurtz will follow up with other Lincoln farmers to gauge interest and gather ideas.

#### **Leaf Blower**

Through a Citizen's Petition, Concord is moving toward seasonal limits on leaf blowers and moving to Town Meeting. Peter von Mertens says that the Leaf Blower Committee will need to submit a complete revision of a new bylaw. Ron Chester would like to see the Commission help the Committee moving forward with additional work they may need to be done.

#### **Solar**

Blue Wave has pulled out citing electrical connectivity issues.

#### **Other Reports & Announcements**

Civico/Oriole Landing housing project on Mary's Way will be discussed at a Feb 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Order of Conditions issued for 14 Old Cambridge Turnpike – replacement septic system and new garage
- Meeting minutes from January 3<sup>rd</sup> approved
- Bills paid & payroll signed

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Curtin, Conservation Assistant*