

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022

Approved: \*\*\*\*

Members Present: Ari Kurtz (Chair), Becca Fasciano, Amber Carr, Laura Regrut, Richard Selden, and Kathleen Shepard  
Members Absent: Susan Hall Mygatt  
Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda, Conservation Director; Stacy Carter, Conservation Planner

*This Public meeting was held virtually, pursuant to Senate Bill # 2475,  
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law*

7:00 p.m. – Discussion Items

- Approve Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2022 - Motion by Ms. Shepard to approve; seconded by Ms. Carr; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
- Request to Use Conservation Land - Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival Class - The Conservation Department and LLCT received a request from Tim Swanson, who runs a wilderness survival skills business named Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival. He would like to host survival classes on conservation land. These classes are generally 10-15 participants (homeschool children but occasionally adults/teens) and are held on weekdays and weekends for 3-6 hours. His normal classes include animal tracking, plant ID, archery, foraging, fishing, shelter building, wood carving, nature crafting, group games and fire building. Conservation and LLCT staff were concerned about the fire building and foraging parts of his classes because these types of activities are prohibited by our conservation land rules. Commercial activities may be allowed with a group use permit. Ms. Carter reached out to Mr. Swanson, and he said he is willing to remove any activities from his classes that are against our conservation land rules. He filled out a Group Use Permit, which indicated that he wants to run his classes 2-3 times a week and is looking for a conservation area with adequate parking for attendees. Conservation staff are hesitant to approve his request because it is a very frequent commercial use of conservation land, and places with parking like Mt. Misery are too popular to add a new frequent use. Less popular lands like Tanners Brook would require roadside parking. Mr. Swanson says he is currently using Groton Conservation Trust land, which can only fit four cars, so he limits his classes there to 2-3 cars (he says he is very flexible). Discussion ensued. The majority of the Commission were open to some level of use less frequent than the requested 2-3 times/week, and agreed to allow staff to make this decision based upon feedback from the Commission. They were also interested in Mr. Swanson providing some benefit to Lincoln residents in return, such as hosting free classes/walks on a yearly basis.

7:20 p.m. Notice of Intent: 80 Birchwood Lane; C. Winchell and K. Brustowicz (owners); M. DiModica; septic designer (DEP #203-945)

Mike DiModica (M.J. DiModica Excavating), on behalf of the owner and Applicant Clark Winchell, filed a NOI for the replacement of an existing failed three-bedroom system Soil Absorption System (SAS) with a five-bedroom SAS, replacement of an underground electric service and installation of a new drinking water well. The current septic system consists of two failed cesspools within 30 feet of the bank of the Sudbury River. The cesspools are located adjacent to an existing house which will remain (i.e. no work is proposed for the house at this time). The wetlands were flagged by Mr. DiModica. The following resources areas are located on the property: (1) Bank of the Sudbury River, (2) Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF); (3) 200-foot Riverfront Area; (4) 100-foot Upland Buffer Zone Resource Area (Bylaw); and (5) Land Under Water (LUW).

Due to the location of the existing cesspools and house, the following work would occur with the 0-50-ft Upland Buffer Zone (and inner Riparian Zone);

- Pumping/filling of existing cesspools – all heavy equipment would remain upgradient of cesspool area; the cesspool will likely be filled using a wheelbarrow to transport sand into the tank.
- Trenching and piping from existing house to new soil pipe to septic tank, and pump chamber.
- Trenching for underground electric line and new water service supply from new well to the house.

Proposed work will also occur within the 50–100-foot buffer zone and the Riparian Zone. Proposed activities include (1) Trenching and piping for various septic lines and components, electric and water lines; (2) Installation of the Title V leaching field, new septic tank, and pump chamber; and (3) Installation of a new well.

All of this work is located on existing lawn or landscaped areas. No new impervious surface is proposed, as all of the infrastructure would be underground. Mr. DiModica indicated to staff that the final location of the septic pipe, water pipe and underground electric service may need to change slightly in the field depending on where ledge is found. The Commission will add a condition requiring the contractor to contact Conservation staff for a pre-construction meeting to review the proposed location of erosion control and determine whether more robust erosion controls will be needed in some areas. Staff requested that erosion control be added to the plan around the proposed electric line and well. Motion by Ms. Carr to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions contingent on receiving a revised plan showing the corrected erosion control barriers as discussed. Seconded by Ms. Shepard; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

#### 7:50 p.m. Agricultural Use of Conservation Land Presentation

Stacy Carter gave a presentation about Lincoln Conservation Land Agricultural Fields, farm licensing requirements, and the thirteen farms currently licensed to use conservation land.

#### 8:10 p.m. – Request to remove Two Invasive Norway Maples in the 100’ Buffer Zone, 10 Beaver Pond Rd

The landowner wishes to remove two invasive Norway Maples from the Buffer Zone and install numerous native plants. The owner currently has a wetlands permit on file with the Conservation Office for the installation of a septic system, issued last year. The Conservation Director suggested the Commission could consider this request as a minor plan change associated with this existing permit. It was the Commission’s opinion that the removal of the two trees would not be detrimental to the wetland, contingent upon no ground disturbance and assurance that equipment will remain on paved or lawn surface. Staff will prepare a memo to the owner codifying this approval.

#### 9:05 p.m. Vegetation Cutting in Riverfront Area; Hiddenwood Path (LLCT parcel 186-42-0)

This past fall, LLCT staff were performing routine monitoring of the Hiddenwood Path conservation area, which is an LLCT property. They found a number of cut saplings adjacent to 11 Stonehedge Rd. The area in which the cutting occurred is within the 100-ft Buffer Zone and 200-ft Riverfront Area, therefore LLCT staff contacted Conservation staff for assistance. Staff of both organizations met with the abutters on November 1, 2022 for a site visit. The affected area is approximately 900 s.f. There were approx. 29 small saplings cut approximately 2” from ground level. Almost all of the saplings were less than 3” in diameter. There were 2-3 that were <5”. The area still looks very natural – with leaf litter and larger trees throughout. The closest cut sapling to the wetland edge was approximately 10-15 ft. The abutter explained to staff that two trees came down during two windstorm events in 2020 - one on their house and a pine tree that fell closer to the wetland but still on their property. They removed the two trees and did some cleanup. The area still looks very natural with leaf litter and dozens of oak seedlings taking over the areas. The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust is currently working on a restoration plan with the abutter, therefore, Conservation staff feel the restoration work which will be agreed to by LLCT is adequate for wetlands restoration as well. It was the Commission’s opinion that the abutter should work with LLCT on the restoration activity and that the abutter shall keep Conservation staff informed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.