

**Lincoln Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2018

Start – 7:00 pm  
End – 9:30 pm

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

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

**CONSERVATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Field staff and Mr. Gumbart attended a workshop the last two days at Minuteman National Historical Park which presented information on materials that could potentially be used for future path projects.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Draft Pond Management Policy**

Peter von Mertens was tasked with writing a draft policy for aquatic pond management after the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Today the plan will be developed further to be voted on at the next meeting which the various pond associations and landowners will be invited to. Jim Henderson voiced his concerns that the draft policy has the wrong tone and should be more invitational so applicants feel that the town wishes to work with them on this new change. Mr. von Mertens explained that the strong language was used to show the Commission’s feelings toward the four chemicals. Tom Gumbart voiced his concerns that the draft puts the burden on Conservation staff to give guidance to the applicants when the majority of the planning should be on the applicants. Richard Selden stated that over the coming years staff will learn enough to advise applicants however he agrees that at this time the onus should be on the applicants in exploring alternatives. Ari Kurtz felt that the tone was fairly neutral; while Larry Buell believed that the tone wavered and should be more uniform. Mr. Henderson said that there is way to show uniformity while engaging with people to have them understand the cause and show that ConCom wants to work with them to create comprehensive plan.

Dr. Selden agrees that the Commission should give some direction and show the applicants exactly what the Commission wants. He continued that it should start with a report from each pond including pond dimensions, invasive and native species population, inlets and outlets. This should also include a detailed list of species that are to be controlled as well as a history of past remediation with dosage information as far back as available. The Commission will need rationale for what methods can and can’t be used as well as what suppliers are used. These requirements will apply to each new permit and permit extensions to ensure compliance. Mr. Gumbart added that it should be clarified that the applicants do not have to try every other alternative; they just have to show that they have thoroughly vetted other options and explain why they don’t work with data to support that claim. Ron Chester added that there should be changes made to the language so that the intent is clear.

Mr. Henderson added that the Commission is seeking to change the directions of the reporting and management proposals so that there is more pond-specific information included. He continued that the Commission should give recommendations and ask more questions about the potential other options. While Mr. Buell cautioned that the language of the policy opens the doors for applicants to use these chemicals if they just jump through some hoops, Dr. Selden believes that if this process is followed the Commission will rarely allow these four chemicals. Mr. Henderson suggested Dr. Selden release his information on alternatives to better direct the applicants. Christine Dugan said that the tone of the policy should be less adversarial and shouldn't put the entire onus on the owners and the applicants. The Commission should work with the applicants and give them options or suggestions since the point of this policy is to protect the water. Mr. Henderson agreed that the Commission should ensure that the applicants do not feel this as a confrontation, more of a cooperation. Mr. von Mertens will rewrite the policy with the new comments to be finalized at the next meeting.

### **Commissioner Reappointments**

Ari Kurtz and Larry Buell are up for reappointments. Both are looking to be reappointed for another term so they will be submitting letters to the Board of Selectmen.

### **Town Meeting Report**

Lincoln-Sudbury high school students have passed both of their bans on single use water bottles and plastic bags.

Oriole Landing also passed which may involve Conservation at some point with regard to trail access

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

### **Agricultural Subcommittee**

11 of 13 farmers have been met with in the Conservation Office for the beginning of the new five year cycle. The land previously occupied by Blue Heron organic farm will be reevaluated as the Commission is hoping to keep it in organic agricultural use. The existing farm stand will also be considered for potential cooperative operation.

### **Marijuana Subcommittee**

There will be a meeting to discuss the levels of marijuana to be considered in town; cultivation, sale, testing and manufacturing. There is potential for craft cooperatives to work under one license if approved.

### **CISMA**

Christine Dugan gave a brief update on CISMA, as well as informing of the SuAsCo RSC's planned involvement in an Earth Day parade and the Concord Patriots Day parade.

### **School Building Committee**

In April there will be a design presentation as well as future sessions intended to edit down options for a plan. On June 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a vote on which design the town would like to go with.

### **OTHER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commission is considering requiring all dogs must be on leashes within 100 yards of animal enclosures and within the growing season on agricultural fields.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Request for Extension of the existing Order of Conditions for pond management activities associated with the Swim Pond at Valley Pond **voted 7-0 to approve**
  - A new NOI will have to be filed next year with a comprehensive management plan expected in 120 days.
- Permit approved for 5k Trail Run at deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum
- Bills paid & payroll signed

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Curtin  
Conservation Assistant