

Lincoln Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes - May 1, 2019

Start – 7:00 pm

End – 10:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Peter von Mertens, Larry Buell, Ari Kurtz (arrived at 7:30), Christine Dugan, Jim Henderson, Richard Selden

Staff Preset: Jennifer Curtin, Tom Gumbart

WETLANDS

7:00 – Notice of Intent: Muir. 1 Meadowbrook Road (172-25-0). The project is for the demolition of an existing garage, construction of a new larger garage/ studio, and associated driveway alterations within the buffer zone resource area of an intermittent stream on the property. Continued from April 10, 2019.

Attendee: Ayr Muir

Mr. von Mertens opened the hearing. Mr. Muir submitted the engineering report which included how building can be done. Mr. Henderson met with Mr. Muir on site and talked about location of structure. Mr. Muir said that they have not changed the siting of the garage since the last meeting. He added that his wife is uncomfortable moving the garage closer to the house as well as moving it substantially closer to the road as this would block the view of the backyard as you drive in. Mr. Henderson said that it was his understanding that the garage would move closer to the house and the street. Mr. Muir said that he and his wife believe that moving it closer to the house would change the look of the home and they do not want to take the risk. Their intent is to rebuild the structure in the same general area. Mr. Buell said that he understands that this is something that the Muirs will have to live with so he understands their apprehension to a change to the site layout.

Mr. von Mertens said that doing French drains may be an improvement on the stormwater runoff. He also said that the shortened driveway is also a considerable reduction of impervious surface area and helps to mitigate the impacts from being closer to the stream. Mr. Muir said that he plans on doing a pervious driveway. Mr. Henderson advised that this would require considerable over excavation so it may end up being even more detrimental to the stream. Dr. Selden asked if they could just move it a few feet closer to the house. Mr. Muir said he would be okay with that. Mr. Henderson recommended changing the plan to show the garage 15 ft. from the closest corner to the wetland. Mr. Muir agreed to this and will bring a new plan to the next meeting that reflects this change. Mr. Henderson also requested Mr. Muir explore the options for driveways and what would work the best; pervious, impervious, or impervious with French drains along sides.

The Commission voted 5-0 to continue the hearing to May 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

7:30 – Request for Determination of Applicability: Lincoln Public Schools. 6 Ballfield Road (143-15-0). This project is for the placing of pre-fabricated modular classrooms and a parking lot with 44 spaces partially located within protected resource areas on the Lincoln School Property.

Attendees: Buckner Creel, Peter Glick, Ken Bassett, Peter Lukacic, Daniel Clasby

Peter Glick, project engineer with SMMA, presented the project. This permit is only for the modular classrooms, with a Notice of Intent to follow for the rest of the school building project. This work would start around July 8, with the trailers to be delivered in late fall. They will stay in place until the end of construction at which time the area will be restored entirely to a ballfield in Summer 2023. They came to the conclusion that the proposed location is the best, taking into consideration the wetland constraints. Dr. Selden asked if there could be a different configuration to get the building or parking out of the buffer zone. Mr. Glick said that there are only certain ways in which the modular pieces can fit together. He added that immediately below the proposed location is the septic which will not allow for digging. There will be no trees removed for this part of the project. Mr. Creel said it is cheaper and easier because of this configuration, changing it would change the cost. Dr. Selden said that if it is not feasible he understands. Mr. Henderson said that, since it is not permanent, this is a place where the Commission understands that conditions will not be permanent. Since a portion of the buildings are within 100 ft. riverfront resource area and buffering vegetated wetland, there will be mitigation done. The pavement will be porous and there is enough area underneath for pervious pavers. Topsoil will be stockpiled outside of the buffer zone and much will be reused. There will be a construction fence all the way around the project area. Utility poles will be installed in riverfront which will also be contained. Mr. von Mertens mentioned adding something to prevent runoff from the proposed parking area. The Commission asked that minimal salt be used in the parking area because of its proximity to the wetland resource area but understand the need for safety. The Commission also conveyed the need for a plan for long term tree protection in the work area.

The Commission voted 6-0 to continue the hearing to May 22 at 7:30 p.m.

8:00 (8:30) – Request for Amended Order of Conditions: Minuteman Vocational Technical High School. Mill Street (115-10-0) – This request is regarding the change of the site plan of the original Order of Conditions (DEP File #203-0907) with stormwater infrastructure in the buffer zone resource area. Continued from April 10.

Jennifer Curtin read a letter from the applicant requesting a continuation to the next hearing.

The Commission voted 6-0 to continue the hearing to May 22, 2019 at 8:30 p.m.

8:30 (8:45) – Notice of Intent: Orgel. 237 Old Concord Road (139-1-0). The project is for the restoration of the buffer zone resource areas at the property. Continued from April 10, 2019.

Attendees: Rob Orgel, Elizabeth Orgel

The Orgels presented their plans for plantings for the impacted area. Their goal is to create a good environment for native plant species and to stabilize the slope. They plan to plant with hand-digging on slope to reduce disturbance to the area. They also plan to do drip irrigation but not automatic as it is costly. Mr. von Mertens pointed out that this plan did not include any types of trees that were there prior to the cutting. Mrs. Orgel said that there were mostly white pines and there is already an abundance of those around. She added that they left the last meeting with an understanding that they would not be replicating what was there before. They would like to plant in a way that bees and native birds will return to the area. Mr. Henderson said that they should have a plan for mowing the meadow and added that they should not mow too often. Mr. Buell said the issue for the Commission is that this plan is mostly shrubs and the landscape was heavily treed prior to the cutting. Mr. Henderson asked how large the trees are that they will be planting. Mrs. Orgel said they do not

have sizes yet. Mr. Henderson said that deer and invasive plants will impact the success of the plants and if they are too small they may not survive. He also said that they should include some more diversity, including some pines and hardwoods. He thinks the distribution is good but the issue is in the implementation, especially the watering, which will be hard to maintain if it is not an automatic system. Mr. Kurtz said there may be some terracing or planting in pockets necessary because of the steep slope. He also mentioned potential fencing to protect trees from deer browse. Dr. Selden said that this plan has come a long way and understands that they do not wish to completely replicate what was there but reiterated Mr. Henderson's point that they should add a few more large trees. Mr. Kurtz said that they will need a long-term management plan. Mr. von Mertens said that they want 90% to survive and if they do not, then they will need to be replaced.

The following conditions will be added to the Order:

- Add 3-6 trees to this plan
- 5-Year Management plan
- Planting list to be provided to Conservation with sizes, numbers and species prior to planting.
- 80% large trees and 90% shrubs survive in 3 years and if that number is not reached to replace with similar sizes
- Annual photographs and reporting.

The Commission voted 6-0 to close the hearing and to issue an Order of Conditions at the next hearing on May 22, 2019.

There was a good turnout for Earth Day cleanup at the Lincoln Schools campus. Students assisted with weed and invasive cutting and trash collection at the stream near the swimming pool.

Beaver are continuing to dam around Town and cause flooding issues. Mr. Kurtz mentioned that this is the highest water he's seen in all his time farming in Lincoln. Will likely require trapping.

Susan Hall MyGatt and Tim Knight introduced themselves and explained why they were interested in joining the Conservation Commission. The Commissioners introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their backgrounds and the purpose of the Conservation Commission

Other Reports and Announcements

Discussion with Leaf-Blower Study Group

Attendees: Joyce DiToro

Mr. von Mertens started out by thanking the Leaf-Blower Study Group for their efforts to educate the public and to get the bylaw passed. Jamie said that they have accomplished their charge as of 2013. Mr. von Mertens said that their push has had an impact on Conservation in that they now have a number of battery powered tools. Mr. McGean said they would like to disband the Leaf-Blower Study Group as this mission has concluded. If there is continued interest, members can join other groups. The Commission agreed to disband the group as it exists currently.

Ms. DiToro presented the Lincoln Garden Club's (LGC) concerns. The first is described in their letter sent to Mr. von Mertens on March 27 stating their past decision to neither support nor oppose the proposed bylaw and their confusion

at a subcommittee of the LGC being named a supporter in the Leaf Blower Study Group's presentation at Town Meeting. Their second issue was that they never received a reply to this letter. The subgroup of the LGC in question, the Conservation and Environment Committee, has only been in place for a few months. Another LGC member said that the business of individuals to take a side is fine but they belong to an organization that as a whole did not support or oppose the bylaw. Mr. von Mertens said that he did not think this was a time to respond as the conversations surrounding the passing of the bylaw were heated and this seems to be an internal matter within the LGC. Mr. McGean said that it was not the group's intent to misrepresent the LGC and did not know that the subgroup of the LGC did not have the authority to support this measure independently. Dr. Selden said the Commission now understands that it is not an internal matter and understands the Commission is responsible since the Leaf –Blower Study Group is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. He apologized on behalf of the Commission for the delayed response to the letter.

Action Items

- Bills Paid & Payroll Signed
- Determination of Applicability Issued for 31 Old Concord Road
- Determination of Applicability Issued for 168 Bedford Road

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Curtin
Conservation Assistant