

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2022

Approved: June 1, 2022

Members Present: Ari Kurtz (Chair), Susan Hall Mygatt, Amber Carr, Becca Fasciano, Laura Regrut, Richard Selden (left at 7:25 p.m.) and Kathleen Shepard

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

- Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2022 - motion by Ms. Mygatt to approve as amended; seconded by Ms. Carr; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
- The Commission will hold a Trail Use Public Forum May 18th 7-8:30 p.m.

7:10 p.m. Bedford Rd-Mill St Bike Path Discussion

Margaret Olson and Bob Wolf, members of the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), presented their vision for a bike path that connects Bedford Rd to Mill St in North Lincoln. Most of the proposed bike path would be on the existing farm road through the Ricci conservation land, and the new proposed section connecting Ricci to Mill St would be on upland and/or an existing gravel driveway on municipal land near the Transfer Station. There is a short segment (~100-200-ft) of existing trail at Ricci that goes through a very wet area and would require surface improvements or a wide boardwalk to support bikers. Margaret and Bob are looking for the Commission's opinion about establishment of a bike path in this location, since much of the proposed path would be on conservation land. Several Commission members expressed support for having BPAC look into the feasibility of making improvements to the trail.

7:40 p.m. Discussion: Invasive Species Management Project – Mass Audubon Society (MAS); F. Sutti, S. McCue

Mass Audubon's Flavio Sutti (Conservation Ecologist) and Scott McCue (Regional Director, Metro West) contacted staff with a proposal to conduct invasive species control at Drumlin Farm. Staff met with Flavio and Scott on site and reviewed various control projects within the 100-ft buffer zone.

In particular, there are 5 main invasive management areas. The first 3 areas would involve removal of invasive species with hand tools and restoring the areas with native plants. All proposed work would occur in the 100-foot buffer zone (but not in the wetland resource area).

1. Removal of invasive species adjacent to a vernal pond.
2. Removal of invasive species around the deer pen pond – mechanically remove and plant native species.
3. Invasive species removal at toad hollow.
4. Tree of heaven removal from field – MAS proposes to cut the trunk and paint the cut stump with glyphosate.
5. Foliar spraying of Japanese knotweed with a herbicide and cut-dab (painting cut stems with a herbicide) in the picnic area on the property.

MAS policy prioritizes manual control of invasive plants over use of herbicides. Herbicide use is recommended when manual control will fail to remove invasives, or potentially exacerbate invasive, after thorough alternatives analysis. Chemical invasive plant control primarily uses glyphosate or triclopyr. These are systemic applications—the herbicide is absorbed into the plant at the point of contact and translocated throughout the plant, typically killing all parts and preventing resprouting. Ms. Carr was in favor of reviewing the project as an NOI with a 5-

year OOC which allows some flexibility to permit the staff to grant administrative approval. Ms. Olson, abutter to Drumlin Farm, encouraged the Commission to give MAS the tools they need.

8:55 p.m. Discussion: Native Plantings in Wetland Buffer Zone at 115 Trapelo Road; R. Neurath
Rachel Neurath, owner of 115 Trapelo Road, has requested permission to plant native plants by hand in the Wetland Buffer Zone. In particular, Ms. Neurath proposed to plant native species in the 50-100-foot buffer zone. There would only be minimal soil disturbance and planting would only occur in areas that are currently lawn. Ms. Carr and Mr. Kurtz felt comfortable with staff administratively approving the hand planting of native species in the 50-100 buffer zone with specific parameters and staff review.

8:40 p.m. Cont. Notice of Intent: Minute Man National Historical Park (DEP #203-0947)
The Applicant has requested a continuance; motion by Mr. Kurtz to continue the hearing to June 1, 2022 at 7:25, seconded by Ms. Mygatt; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:42 p.m. Notice of Intent: Battle Road Farm; J. Losanno, B. Corey DGT Associates
This Notice of Intent has been filed on behalf of Battle Road Farm for repaving of the roadways and various stormwater improvements around the Condominiums. Most of the proposed work would take place within the 100-ft Buffer Zone, but some is proposed within Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). There is a wetland system in the center of Battle Road Farm and around the eastern edge that contains an intermittent stream with BVW.

Development of the Battle Road Farm Condominiums was permitted through an Order of Conditions issued in 1987. At the time, the Applicant proposed drainage infrastructure, the regular maintenance of which was required as a condition by the Conservation Commission. Drainage has been an issue at Battle Road Farm, and DGT has found in their research in connection with this filing that parts of the permitted drainage system were not completed at the time of construction. Although the majority of the proposed work is the repaving of existing roadways that are now full of potholes, cracked and eroding, DGT also proposes various stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Work proposed includes:

- 7,753 sq.ft. of repaving the roadways within the 0-50-ft Buffer Zone
- 18,334 sq.ft. of repaving the roadways within the 50-100-ft Buffer Zone
- Improvements to the existing drainage network with stormwater BMPs (raingardens, water quality units, plunge pool, stone swales, etc). There are ten existing drainage networks, each of which would be improved as described by the Applicant in the Stormwater Management and Design Calculations Report. New infrastructure and work proposed for each network includes:
 - Network 1: Water Quality Unit, Deep Sump Catch Basin, plunge pool, existing swale cleanout
 - Network 2: Eliminator oil & debris trap, Deep Sump Catch Basin, new grass lined-swale
 - Network 3: Eliminator oil & debris trap, new grass-lined swale
 - Network 4: Sediment Forebay, new grass-lined swale
 - Network 5: Eliminator oil & debris trap (x2), riprap at end of existing outlet and digging out a sediment filled wetland area.
 - Network 6: Eliminator oil & debris trap (multiple catch basins), area drain, Deep Sump Catch Basin, Water Quality Unit, riprap at end of existing outlet and digging out of area
 - Network 7: Eliminator oil & debris trap (x2), Deep Sump Catch Basin (x3), Water Quality Unit, removal of sedimentation within existing detention basin and re-seeding of detention basin, riprap at end of existing outlet
 - Network 8: Rain garden and sediment forebay (x2)
 - Network 9: Water Quality Unit, riprap at end of existing outlet, swale cleanout and re-seeding, check dams (x2) along the existing swale
 - Network 10: Double Grate Deep Sump Catch Basin, Water Quality Unit, Removal of sedimentation within detention basin, re-seeding of detention basin, riprap installation at end of

existing outlet, removal of stone swale and replacement with seeded loam, cleanup of swale outlet, removal of invasive Japanese knotweed within limit of work

An Operation and Maintenance Plan has also been included in the Stormwater Report

The majority of the work proposed is the repaving of the existing roadways at Battle Road Farm. Repair and maintenance of existing structures is exempt under the Wetlands Protection Act, but not exempt under the Bylaw. Provided that all equipment remains on the existing roadway and that erosion controls are placed along the road edge, it is unlikely that the repaving work would have any impact on the resource areas.

Questions were raised about what type of machinery would need to be used to install the stormwater infrastructure, and what the total square footage of impact of the drainage improvement work would be. The Applicant was amenable to having a condition require that any stockpiling would occur outside the 100-foot buffer zone, and that staff would review the proposed stockpile locations. A question was asked as to who will be responsible for maintaining the stormwater systems. It was stated that the condo association is responsible and would hire a company to do the annual maintenance work. The Commission would like to see annual maintenance work reported to the Conservation Department on an annual basis. The Commission requested a continuance so that more review of the O&M plan could happen. The applicant agreed to the continuance. Motion by Ms. Carr to continue to June 1st at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Ms. Mygatt; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.