

Lincoln Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2020

Start - 7:00 p.m.

End – 9:30 p.m.

Staff Present: Tom Gumbart, Jennifer Curtin, Stacy Carter

Attendees: Lincoln Miara, Maria Miara, Richard Kirby, Kathy Gimbel

Commissioners Present: Susan Hall Mygatt, Jim Henderson, Ari Kurtz, Larry Buell, Richard Selden, Kathleen Shepard

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Stacy Carter, land manager, and Emma Coates, land steward, are interested in getting more involved with wetland permitting and review.

The Commission discussed electronic signing of documents. The Department received information from Paula Vaugh-Mackenzie and Town Counsel, and the Commission plans to vote to adopt e-signatures at our meeting in September.

Mr. Gumbart has done work at Raja Farm and Bretton Meadow farms to clear along the fence lines.

Christine Dugan is continuing to be available, but a new Commissioner will need to be appointed soon to replace her.

37 North Great Road (112-29-0) Encroachment onto Town Land

During monitoring of Town Conservation parcel 113-14-0 it was discovered that the adjacent property at 37 North Great Road had brought in fill and graded a portion of the Conservation land. The property owners, Lincoln and Maria Miara, said that they believed that the fencing along that side of the property was the property boundary. A survey showed that fill and grading had occurred on Conservation land and that part of the existing yard in the east side of the property was also on Conservation land. However, the portion of lawn which is on Conservation land is believed to have been in place from previous owners.

The Miaras said that the regrading was done to allow access to the rest of their property. Richard Kirby, the wetland consultant for the project, described the Miara's proposal for mitigation. For the town-owned land that had the recent encroachment, they propose removing/re-grading the fill to slopes not to exceed 2:1 or 2.5:1. The slope would be seeded with native bluegrass and low-growing fescue and mowed once per month during the growing season. The property boundaries would be permanently demarcated. For the town-owned land that is currently lawn and a small area of fill, they propose removing/re-grading the fill and allowing the lawn to go fallow. They would mow this area once or twice a year.

For mitigation they plan to manage both their property and the adjacent town-owned land of invasive species, including wisteria cutting/removal, glyphosate application to Japanese knotweed, and mowing/removal of coarse woody debris in a long-term effort to establish a meadow. If there are plantings, the Miaras agree to provide irrigation water. The Miaras stated their commitment to providing the town access to the town owned land for management purposes and a one-time, \$2,000.00 contribution/fund for management/maintenance of the

town-owned property adjacent to their land, in exchange for grade modification on town-owned land immediately adjacent to their land for access to backyard

The Commission discussed problems with herbicide use near wetlands. Dr. Selden expressed the concerns that the Commission has discussed at length before about using chemical herbicides near wetlands and water supplies. A greater discussion would need to be had before the Commission would allow use of herbicides near this wetland. The Commission will review the aquatic herbicide study done by Wendy Heiger-Bernays that was funded by Conservation in 2017. The Commission discussed other potential means of control including tarping, continuous mowing, and bio controls. Ms. Carter, land manager for the Conservation Department, commented that, while chemicals are the most effective way to eradicate knotweed, the Department has had some success with continuous mowing and removal. The Miaras will attend the next ConCom meeting on August 26 to discuss their plan in greater detail, including the exact plans for removal/grading of fill in the Conservation land and their plan for control of invasive plants.

Wetlands Permitting – Public hearing process, we will review how we handle Notices of Intent and Requests for Determination of Applicability

Conservation staff will draft process flow charts and will submit them to the Commission for review.

ACTION ITEMS

- Order of Conditions issued for Massport. Hanscom Drive/Old Boston Rd. (103-6-0)
- Bills & payroll reviewed
- Meeting minutes from July 15, 2020 approved

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Curtin
Conservation Assistant