

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2021

Approved: April 14, 2021

Members Present: Jim Henderson (Chair), Larry Buell, Susan Hall Mygatt, Ari Kurtz, Kathleen Shepard, Laura Regrut
Members Absent: Richard Selden
Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda, Conservation Director; Stacy Carter, Land Manager; Emma Coates, Land Steward

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this Conservation Commission meeting was conducted via remote participation using Zoom.com. The Town provided access to such meeting via a link to call in. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings.

7:00 p.m. – Discussion Items -

- Staffing Update - Michele Grzenda was pleased to announce the promotion of Stacy Carter to Conservation Planner and Emma Coates to Land Manager. The promotions will go into effect on April 2, 2021. In addition, the department will be hiring a Land Steward and summer intern next month.
- Meeting Minutes Review: Motion by Kathleen Shepard to approve the 3/3/21 Meeting minutes as revised; seconded by Larry Buell; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
- Michele Grzenda summarized the status of the Public Land Preservation Act (PLPA) and will be drafting a letter of support for the Commission to endorse at their next meeting. The Commission previously endorsed the PLPA in 2007.

7:15 p.m. – Cont. Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation: 0 Pine Ridge Road (177-70-0); P. DeNormandie, Land Vest; D. Burke, Wetland Scientist

This was a continued discussion regarding the confirmation of wetland resource areas. The Conservation Director performed an additional site visit on March 10th with Mr. Burke. The Director confirmed that the wetland flags as shown on the plan are accurate. As such, the only change made to the revised plan (dated March 12, 2021) was to add the vernal pool and its 100ft buffer zone. Motion by Ari Kurtz to close the hearing and accept the onsite wetland delineation; seconded by Larry Buell; roll call vote: each member responded Aye. Motion by Ari Kurtz to close the hearing and issue an Order of Resource Area Delineation; seconded by Larry Buell, roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:30 p.m. – Request for Determination of Applicability: 195 Lincoln Road (172-30-0); C. Ratiner and M. Schultz (owners); K. Malo, Curtis Septic Design Co.

A Request for Determination of Applicability has been filed on behalf of the owners, C. Ratiner and M. Schultz, for the replacement of a septic tank at 195 Lincoln Road. The existing septic tank is located approximately 10 feet from the back of the house, is cracked, and needs replacement according to Title 5 inspection. The existing tank is located approximately 50' from a pond. The tank is proposed to be installed in the same location so that a 2% pitch is maintained (Title V requirement). If the tank were located elsewhere the elevations of the inlet and outlet of the new tank would not be compatible with other existing components of the system. The existing tank also needs to be decommissioned, therefore installing the replacement tank in the same location minimizes disturbance.

Erosion controls will be installed according to the site plan and will consist of a 9" straw wattle and silt fence. The repair work will be done over 1-2 days. The temporary stockpile area is shown on the plan. The disturbed areas will be raked and seeded. Jute matting will be installed directly after the repairs are completed for winter stabilization until mature grass grows. Motion by Ari Kurtz to issue a negative 3 determination of Applicability, contingent on Susan Hall Mygatt review of the final document; seconded by Larry Buell; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:50 p.m. – Update – Lincoln Schools Construction

The Park and Recreation Dept. discovered that one of the solar panels approved as part of the school redevelopment project may impact the existing tot lot and sports court located on the northeastern side of the parking lot. The School

Dept. and Park and Recreation are assessing the situation. If the sports court and tot lot need to be relocated, a wetlands filing will be required due to the proximity to wetland resource areas.

8:00 p.m. – 237 Old Concord Road (DEP File #203-0923); E. Orgel (owner)

This is a continued meeting with the owners, Ms. and Mr. Orgel, to discuss the restoration requirements of the Upland Buffer Zone Resource Area. At the last meeting, the Commission required (1) additional trees and shrubs be added to a revised planting plan (20 trees and 60 shrubs total); 2) Some trees added to the 50-100ft buffer; some shrubs added to the 0-50ft buffer (for better vegetative cover); (3) Revised description of watering plan, and corrected planting survival rate to reflect what was written in Condition #30 (80% large trees and 90% of shrubs in first three years). Ms. Orgel presented a revised planting plan at the meeting which was sent to the Conservation office after 5pm. The revised plan, dated March 2021, included the required modifications noted above. The plan also included the 5 trees which were planted in October 2019; but the sixth planted tree, a pin oak, was missing. The owner agreed to add the planted pin oak to the plan.

Ms. Orgel sent a revised maintenance plan which staff and Mr. Henderson reviewed before the meeting. Ms. Mygatt offered additional suggestions which Ms. Orgel agreed to make. Ms. Orgel will revise the maintenance plan and planting plan (with new revision dates). Michele Grzenda reviewed anticipated timelines: Plantings to be completed by May 15, 2021; Ms. Grzenda and Ms. Orgel to confirm the location of where the monitoring photographs will be taken for 5 years; and 100-foot Upland Buffer Zone Resource Area markers to be installed in 2021. Motion by Ari Kurtz to approve the Maintenance Plan and Planting Plan pending that corrections are reviewed and approved by staff; seconded by Susan Hall Mygatt; roll call vote: each member responded Aye. Michele Grzenda will send an email confirmation to Ms. Orgel once the plans are reviewed and approved by Conservation staff.

8:30 p.m. Tree Removal Policy Update

Emma Coates provided the Commission with updates on the draft policy for tree removal in jurisdictional areas. The goal is to create a policy that allows homeowners to remove up to 5 hazard trees in wetlands and/or buffer zones on their property & expedite the administrative approval process for these requests. Staff feel codifying policy would be helpful in both dealing with these situations when they come up and in creating clear and consistent guidelines for department staff. Several surrounding towns have similar policies. Discussion ensued. Ms. Coates will continue working on the policy and incorporate the suggested edits made by commission members.

9:10 p.m. Discussion: Mosquito Bite Prevention Education and Outreach Proposal

LLCT staff and board members, the Conservation Director, and Agricultural Commission members are working on creating a town-wide mailing to educate residents on mosquito bite prevention. The group is requesting that the Conservation Commission and Board of Health endorse and co-sponsor the mailing. The Conservation Director will send around a draft of the material before the next meeting in hopes that the Commission will endorse it.

9:20 p.m. Sub-Committee & Liaison Reports

- Agriculture Sub-Group – Mr. Hannan received his farm application and will be submitting it shortly – this involves the Ricci Field and Umbrello Field
- Susan Hall Mygatt informed the Commission that the CPC will hold their next meeting on 3/24/21.
- Committee of Six has been meeting - several new subgroups will be formed to discuss (1) Conservation Land Rules and Regulations; (2) Parking area needs; and (3) edits to the paper trail map.
- Kathleen Shepard updated the Commission about the South Lincoln Planning Committee meeting held on March 16th – KP Law discussed the Housing Choice Act.

8:30 p.m. – Executive Session: Possible Land Acquisition

Motion by Jim Henderson to enter executive session under #6 – to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property and reconvene in open session; seconded by Ari Kurtz; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

The Commission returned to normal session at 8:52 p.m.

Motion by Larry Buell to adjourn; seconded by Jim Henderson; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.