

Climate Net Zero/Action Plan: Land Use Meeting

Wednesday May 12th 8am via Zoom due to Covid19 pandemic

Green Energy Net Zero Plan Subcommittee members present: Emily Haslett, Staci Montori, Lynne Smith, Sue Klem and Roy Harvey

Land Resource Groups & Members present:

Agriculture Committee: Lynne Bower

Lincoln Land Trust/ Rural Land Foundation: Michelle Barnes, Buzz Constable

Conservation Committee: Jim Henderson,

Lincoln Conservation Department: Michele Grzenda, Stacy Carter, Emma Coates

Codman Community Farms: Nancy Fleming,

Garden Club: Nancy Henderson, Jennifer Glass

Board of Selects: Jennifer Glass

Mothers Out Front: Trish O'Hagan

Land Acknowledgement led by Emily Haslett: We are gathering on indigenous land that was stolen from the Pawtucket peoples. We acknowledge the past, present and future presence of the Wampanoag peoples.

Emily opened the meeting—stressing that this is an incredibly important time to come together to share our vision for Lincoln's conservation land, tree canopy, gardens, wetlands with regards to our shared values of conservation, biodiversity and the climate emergency.

Each person present took the time to mention a recent experience in Lincoln that brought joy and inspiration.

Emily asked each group to share what they are hoping to do as an organization with regards to climate change.

Codman Community Farm:

Changed direction on farm and outreach- Farmer Pete Lowy has worked hard to transition the farm to more regenerative farming such as: pasture rotation of animals, leases a lot of land from conservation department throughout town, revitalizing fields with manure vs. a hayfield- which is very depleting of soil. Strategic animal placement is better for animals too. Market greenhouse-veggies all year round to feed people local food. Solar panels on roofs. Beginning to practice No-Till farming.

Conservation Commission: Noted that Lincoln has over 2000 acres of land. They use very active land management due to great support from the town. Carbon sequestration is a focus; land is rented to grow food. There are educational programs on land stewardship & outreach on invasive species, trail use etiquette, tick management, biodiversity. The trails and land are maintained for many future generations, and there is a focus on climate resilience. Noted that the increased temperatures are making more challenges for Lincoln- such as more invasives, ticks and mosquitoes. They recently did education on ways to reduce the use of pesticides on residential land. Noted that Lincoln has a very robust wetlands by-law with a very strict no disturb zone; this is rare. Planning board- look at their climate resiliency, hazard mitigation plan,

MAGIC- grant created to form a network of climate advocates- peer exchange network to collaborate/share with other towns- key is to educate the residents. Clear comprehensive town residential education- what can one really do? Simple actions- what can we do? Lincoln is drafting stormwater bylaw which will be helpful for climate resilience.

Lincoln Land Trust- In 2019- they formed a climate change committee, making it a focused & more holistic group. Actionable items are important for Climate resilience. Forests and edges, chemicals and invasives- a goal is to educate and motivate and to promote biodiversity and thoughtful stewardship.

Pine Hill wasn't cut. What can we do to sequester more/draw down carbon? Both forests and fields are targets; LLCT hasn't thought about altering water bodies or wetlands, as those are pretty heavily regulated. We hopefully will be able to multiply our success in our pollinator program by helping residents across Town in managing landscapes to minimize carbon footprint and maximize natural carbon capture.

Stop invasives from killing trees. Urban lands, backyards, edges can/should be the next focus. Also acquire more land to put into permanent conservation.

Welcoming to new organic farmers to grow portfolio of local food sources.

Looking at ways to protect blow downs and active management of stands of trees.

Building a Conservation community- birds, watersheds, water. Upgrading to all battery powered tools vs. gas powered.

Suggested Decordova/Trustees of Reservation collaborate with this group.

Zoning for denser residential groupings and possibly acquire land for open spaces expansion.

Garden Club: Focusing on personal landscapes- focus on native plants more recently.

How they connect to larger landscapes, tree planting efforts- supporting Ken Bassett with tree plantings.

Board of Select- Always focusing on connecting the pieces of the town, housing, land, diversity. Simplify the education and have more direct actions. Communication to the community is important and needs to be two ways.

Agriculture Committee: Not a big focus as of yet but looking forward to possibilities and collaboration.

Wrap up: The group has a lot of potential to collaborate and come up with a shared vision, plan for Lincoln's Net Zero Climate Road map. Many voiced the desire for a sustainability director position but acknowledged it may not be available soon enough and that it may need to be a volunteer powered group. There was a fair amount of enthusiasm and optimism, that Lincoln could be a leader in Land Resource Climate Action given the huge amount of conservation land and green space, especially so close to an urban center.

Notes taken by Staci Montori with input from Emily Haslett.