

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2022

Approved: August 24, 2022

Members Present: Ari Kurtz (Chair), Susan Hall Mygatt, Becca Fasciano, Laura Regrut, Kathleen Shepard, and Richard Selden

Members Absent: Amber Carr

Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda, Conservation Director; Stacy Carter, Conservation Planner; Ryan Brown, Land Manager; William Leona, Land Steward/Ranger

*This Public meeting was held virtually, pursuant to Senate Bill # 2985,
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law*

7:00 p.m. – Approve Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2022

Motion by Ms. Shepard to approve the 7/13/22 minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Fasciano; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:10 p.m. Informal Discussion: Proposed Chicken Coop Installation at 177 Concord Road; Scott Yokel

The owners of 177 Concord Road recently contacted staff with an interest in building a chicken coop on their property. Much of the house and yard on this property is within the 50-foot Buffer Zone, which makes it difficult to site a chicken coop outside the 50' Buffer Zone. Staff feel that a small coop with a limited number of chickens is unlikely to impact the wetlands, especially if a small dirt moat or stone drip edge is also installed around the perimeter of the coop. Bylaw regulation 7.3 allows for structures in the 50-ft Buffer Zone in the case of previously altered Upland Buffer Zone, but states that the Commission may require mitigation in the form of plantings. Discussion ensued. The Commission felt that this type of activity with the small number of chickens to be housed there would not create enough waste to impact the wetlands. The Commission was comfortable with staff confirming the approximate wetland edge and assisting the landowner with filing an RDA for formal review at an upcoming meeting.

7:34 p.m. Request to Remove Trees on Conservation Land – 234 Concord Road; S. Ketteringham –

Sue Ketteringham, owner of 234 Concord Road, recently contacted Conservation staff with concerns about trees on the abutting conservation property (Dean Field). She believes that the trees present a hazard to her house and yard and is requesting permission to remove them. Several trees have come down in her yard in the past during storms, and she says that tree limbs have occasionally dropped as well. Ms. Ketteringham is requesting to remove six trees in total, all of which sugar or Norway maples. The Department does not have any money in the budget to have these trees removed, but Ms. Ketteringham is willing to pay for the removals.

Commission members discussed whether or not these tree removals would alter wildlife habitat. Dr. Selden suggested that the owner assess whether each tree would hit the house should it fall. He suggested that the owner confirm this by assessing the height of the trees and the distance said trees are from the house. Some Commission members thought that mitigation planting should be considered. However, given the fact that there are several other trees which will remain, and the difficulty of successful replanting under Norway maples (Norway maples release chemicals into the ground which discourage other vegetation from growing), mitigation planting does not seem like a viable option. Motion by Ms. Mygatt to authorize Ms. Ketteringham to remove the 6 trees, identified and located on conservation land, at her expense after she has confirmed that the trees are within striking distance of the house; seconded by Ms. Shepard; roll call vote: each member responded Aye. Staff will prepare a memo to Ms. Ketteringham identifying various conditions to the approval.

8:00 p.m. – Administrative Matters, Cont.

- Ms. Grzenda introduced Lincoln's Land Management Team - Land Manager Ryan Brown and Land Steward/Ranger Will Leona
- Trail Rules Implementation Plan (TRIP): Ms. Grzenda reviewed the process that staff are implementing to properly sign the trails and educate trail users on the approved trail use rules.
- Wetlands 101 – Ms. Grzenda gave a presentation on wetland protection laws. She described:
 - The differences between the MA Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Bylaw
 - The standard exemptions in the WPA
 - The additional resource areas protected under the Bylaw which are not protected under the WPA
 - The sections of the Bylaw and Regs which discuss the kinds of work allowed/prohibited in the 0-50 and the 50–100-foot buffer zone
 - The different performance standards for work in the 0-50-foot and 50-100-foot buffer zone
- Correspondence –
 - Letter to 43 Old Sudbury Rd re: Possible Chemical Spraying Near Wetlands
 - Email from Solitude Lake Management re: Notice of Treatment Letters for Valley Pond and Todd Pond – the Commission will touch upon this more at the next meeting
 - Letter from Barbara Peskin RE Concerns about Trail Use Regulations

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.