

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

Approved: April 26, 2023

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

Members Absent: Kathleen Shepard

Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda, Conservation Director and Stacy Carter, Conservation Planner

This meeting was held virtually, pursuant to H58 Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023,
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

7:00 p.m. – Discussion Items

- Review Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2023 - Motion by Dr. Selden to approve; seconded by Mr. Kurtz; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
- 26 Old Winter St - Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File #203-0953) - Motion by Dr. Selden to issue a Certificate of Compliance; seconded by Becca Fasciano; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:05 p.m. Informal Discussion: Ryan Estate (140 Lincoln Road) Proposed Propane Tank Installation

Sandy Creighton, Trustee for the Ryan Estate, discussed the need to install a replacement generator and new 1,000-gallon propane tank immediately behind the garage building. Staff reviewed this area on April 3rd and were concerned about the steep slope and proximity to the wetland resource area. Mr. Creighton discussed the alternatives, and stated that those alternatives are financially unfeasible. The Commission recommended that the Ryan Estate hire a wetland scientist to delineate the wetlands and prepare a plan with topography shown in the location of the proposed work area. If the work is within the 50-foot buffer zone and if any grading changes are necessary for the pad installation, Ryan Estate will likely need to file an NOI; otherwise, an RDA may be allowed. Mr. Creighton will reach out to a supplier and determine how much work will be necessary.

7:37 p.m. Discussion: Hannan Healthy Foods Umbrello Field Mural – (270 South Great Road).

Hannan Healthy Foods Farm is interested in having a mural painted on the existing farm stand on conservation land. The artist has floated the possibility of the mural extending beyond the shed and onto a proposed fence between the shed and the utility box. Dr. Selden requested that the mural be painted and sealed in such a way that it will be weatherproof and long-lasting. The Commission suggested that the farmer talk with the neighbors about the concept. The Commission strongly supports the project in principle and requested to see a mockup of the display prior to formal approval.

7:57 p.m. Informal Discussion: Valley Pond (450 Conant Road, Weston, MA) Aquatic Vegetation Management (DEP File #203-922); Alex Appleby and Tanya Crowley

Ms. Mygatt, Ms. Regrut, and Ms. Fasciano disclosed they are all shareholders of Valley Pond Swim Club, however, they feel they can act objectively on this matter.

Valley Pond Vegetation Management Order of Conditions expires on 6/4/2023, and the applicant would like to discuss with the Commission whether the Commission will consider extending the existing Order of Conditions or whether the Commission will require the filing of a new NOI. Among the materials submitted to the Commission was the 2022 Annual Report prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants.

The swim pond has been treated annually since the 1990's to reduce algae and increase underwater visibility for swimming safety. The Commission has issued three separate Orders of Conditions since 1995 (and several extensions) for the treatments. In 2018, the Commission released its *Guidelines for Comprehensive Pond Management Plans*. In 2019, Valley Pond Corporation filed a new NOI outlining their plan for control of algaecide in the swim pond. This NOI proposed continued use of copper-based algicides, Endothal and aluminum sulfate to manage algae. The Commission issued an OOC (#203-922) pursuant to the 2019 NOI. Valley Pond Corporation is not planning on changing management methods and is therefore interested in requesting to extend this OOC if the Commission is amenable to an extension request.

The Commission would like the applicant to submit a revised Pond Management Plan/Report that includes the information required by the Guidelines referenced above, including without limitation (1) a summary of treatments in the last 4 years, (2) types of chemicals used, and (3) whether any new evidence of toxicity of the chemicals to be used has been discovered and/or published. Dr. Selden did a brief review of the chemical Endothal and did not find new evidence of any concerning research. Dr. Selden offered to review the 2019 Pond Management Plan and provide comments indicating where additional information is required by the pond management policy. Mr. Appleby will ask SWCA for a word document version of the 2019 Plan.

8:30 p.m. Informal Discussion: 10 Conant Road

Staff performed an invasive species control administrative approval site visit with a new homeowner, Emily Reiser, at 10 Conant Road, on April 4, 2023. At this site visit, staff noticed a new ~10x20-ft high tunnel (greenhouse) that was likely on the edge of the 200-ft Riverfront Area to a perennial stream. Ms. Reiser said that she would like to move the high tunnel lower down the slope (further into Riverfront Area) during the summer, and then back again higher on the slope each winter to start seeds again. She is also interested in having a mobile chicken coop that would be moved around on the slope. The areas in question are currently lawn, though Ms. Reiser wants to replace much of the slope with more native plantings and meadow. This activity is considered a "minor activity not requiring further review" under the Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR10.02(2)(b)2(e) – "*The conversion of lawn to uses accessory to residential structures such as decks, sheds, patios, pools...provided the activity, including material staging and stockpiling is located more than 50 feet from the mean annual high-water line within the Riverfront Area.*"

The Commission was amenable to allowing staff to review Ms. Reiser's request and, in the staff's discretion, to administratively approve it. Motion by Ms. Mygatt to authorize staff to review this proposal and give them the authority to administratively approve it if they think it adequately protects the values and resources of the Bylaw. Seconded by Mr. Kurtz; roll call vote: each member responded Aye. The Commission asked Ms. Carter to ask the homeowner about how many chickens will be housed on the property (thinking about nutrient loads); and inquire about irrigation needs, if any.

The Commission suggested that, in the future, the staff draft an administrative approval policy which identifies certain minor activities exempt from the WPA and which will not have an adverse impact on the Bylaw values.

8:40 p.m. Administrative Matters, Cont.

Meet and Greet: Conservation Commission Applicant Mark Masterson – Mr. Masterson has spent his life outside. He is also a former Outward Bound instructor. He feels passionate about land management and stewardship.

8:50 p.m. Conservation Barn Field Name Change Request (64 Sandy Pond Road - SE Corner of Sandy Pond Road and Baker Bridge Road)

Several weeks ago, staff were approached by Betsey Dakin, a resident of Lincoln, who requested that the Commission consider naming the Conservation Barn Field the "Dakin Field" after her late husband's family. The

Dakin homestead was across the street from the field, and the field was an orchard that belonged to the Dakin family during that time. Staff feel that Mrs. Dakin's request is reasonable considering the Lincoln Historical Society's support of the name change which was expressed on 7/28/21. The "Dakin Field" name could be posted in the field on a wooden sign like our other wooden conservation land signs. Discussion ensued.

The Commission suggested pausing on this request until a more in-depth review of how indigenous people and former slaves in Lincoln contributed to the care and stewardship of Lincoln's conservation land with the hope of identifying a couple locations where the LCC can install signage which would acknowledge our gratitude for their stewardship and to pay respect. The Commission acknowledged the work they would like to do on the topic. Ms. Mygatt will reach out to Elise Lemire and see if any of her research revealed whether the Dakin Family owned slaves. Ms. Fasciano suggested speaking to Mass Audubon to see if they have done any research on where local indigenous people may have lived in Lincoln. Ms. Fasciano offered to speak to Mass. Audubon. Mr. Kurtz indicated that the staff at the Food Project has been in touch with local indigenous people and are working on their land acknowledgment. Mr. Kurtz will supply Ms. Fasciano with contact information. Ms. Mygatt offered to speak with Ms. Dakin about the LCC's process, if requested.

9:15 p.m. Land Acknowledgement Discussion

The Commission continued their discussion of a land acknowledgement. Ms. Fasciano has worked on a revised land acknowledgement that the Commission reviewed. Discussion ensued. The LCC recognizes the importance of acknowledging indigenous people's continued struggle for equality and justice as well as the need to respect and honor the way of those who came before us as we work to preserve and protect these invaluable resources. The Commission will continue the conversation at their next meeting.

9:45 p.m. Lindentree Farm – Farm Relicensing and Request to Build Deer Fencing and Sublet

The Commission discussed issuing a farm license to Lindentree Farm for the 2023-2027 farm license period. Mr. Kurtz, owner of Lindentree Farm, recused himself. Lindentree Farm requested permission to erect deer fences on certain parts of the Mt. Misery field. Additionally, Lindentree Farm is considering subletting a field to Codman Farm so that Codman can move animals around on certain fields that Lindentree is not growing vegetables on in a given year, which would have the benefit of enhancing the soil.

Motion by Ms. Mygatt to issue a license with standard conditions including permission to erect deer fences as shown on the plan; and authorizing the subletting of the Northwest field to Codman Farm for a period of one year with possible renewal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Selden; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

9:55 p.m. Correspondence & Announcements

- Due to quorum issues, the Commission will change their May meeting to May 24, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.