

Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) - Public Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2023  
Approved: June 28, 2023

Members Present: Ari Kurtz (Chair), Becca Fasciano, Susan Hall Mygatt, Laura Regrut, Mark Masterson, Richard Selden (left at 7:30 p.m. to attend the Capital Planning Committee Meeting as the LCC Representative), and 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

- Mr. Kurtz welcomed new Commission member Mark Masterson
- Review Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2023 -Motion by Ms. Regrut to approve; seconded by Ms. Mygatt; roll call vote: 5:0:2.

7:10 p.m. Land Acknowledgement Discussion, Cont.

Commission members added thoughts and suggestions.

Motion by Dr. Selden to adopt the following land acknowledgement:

*The Lincoln Conservation Commission gratefully acknowledges that we are meeting on the unceded land of Indigenous Peoples including the Agawam, Massaachuch-es-et (Massachusetts), and Pawtucket. We acknowledge the truth of violence, displacement, and forced migration perpetuated on these people. We are working to build practices and opportunities that will honor and support the continued struggle for equality, justice and liberation of Indigenous Peoples in and around our community. We also strive to preserve and protect these lands which are currently under our care.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

Dr. Selden thanked Ms. Fasciano for shepherding this through. The Commission members will take turns stating the acknowledgement at future meetings. Commission members discussed different places and opportunities to state and write the LCC Land Acknowledgment: (1) website; (2) agenda; (3) trail walks, (4) flyers and brochures. Commission members expressed interest in figuring out other ways to pay tribute to indigenous people – perhaps signage at trailheads, providing foraging opportunities to indigenous people, and education/outreach. This matter will be placed on future agendas to discuss in more detail.

7:30 p.m. Discussion re: Dakin Field

Ms. Mygatt has been researching Native Americans and enslaved peoples in Lincoln, and provided the Commission with pages from John MacLean's [A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts](#) and Elise Lemire's [Black Walden: Slavery and its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts](#) to further the Commission's understanding of Lincoln's history. Ms. Mygatt also found more information about the Dakin Family, which once owned the field formerly known as Muster Field. When the Commission last spoke about renaming the Muster Field, concerns were raised about naming properties after colonial era families, particularly regarding slavery. Ms. Mygatt found no evidence that the Dakin family owned slaves. Ms. Mygatt proposed that the Conservation Commission recommend naming the field formerly known as Muster Field as Dakin Field, and that the Commission advise the Select Board of its recommendation. Ms. Mygatt also proposed that the

Commission advise the Select Board as to the efforts the Commission is making to learn about the history of conservation land with respect to indigenous and enslaved peoples, particularly with respect to naming the land.

The Commission discussed educational signage, and agreed that signage should be focused on acknowledging and celebrating enslaved and indigenous peoples, not shaming individual families that were involved in slavery in the past. Ms. Mygatt will reach out to Elise Lemire with further questions. Mr. Kurtz mentioned that evidence of indigenous peoples was found in the field near Walden Pond on DCR land, and he expressed his willingness to reach out to Heather McCune to find out more.

7:45 p.m. Revocable Trail License: 89 Todd Pond Road; P. and A. Muzila

Two conservation trails heading north out of Umbrello Field cross the private property at 89 Todd Pond Road. Homeowners Peter and Alyson Muzila expressed their willingness to grant a revocable trail license for continued use of these trails by the public, and a license has been drafted and signed by the Muzilas. Mr. Masterson moved to approve and sign the license; seconded by Ms. Mygatt. Roll call vote: 6-0 approved.

8:00 p.m. Notice of Intent: 7 Todd Pond Road (DEP # pending); N. Iluri (owner)

Nora Iluri, owner of 7 Todd Pond Rd, filed a Notice of Intent for landscaping within the 100-ft Buffer Zone. This project would involve constructing pervious walkways, patios, stone walls and planting beds within existing lawn area on the property, as well as conversion of a lawn area to native plantings. This project is being proposed in part to provide a paved path to the new accessory apartment entrance in the backyard.

LEC Environmental Associates delineated the wetland resource areas. The house is entirely within the 100-ft Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), and edge of lawn is within 5 feet of the wetland edge. The Applicant proposes construction of 650 sq.ft. of pervious structures within the 0-50-ft Buffer Zone and 375 sq.ft. of pervious structures within the 50-100-ft Buffer Zone. The closest point of disturbance to the wetland, a stone retaining wall, would be 15 feet from edge of wetland. As mitigation, the Applicant proposed converting 600 sq.ft. of lawn to native plantings. The proposed work would be conducted on existing lawn.

Discussion ensued. Kyle Guerrini, landscape architect, described that the pavers are permeable due to the mix of filter fabric and stone underneath, as well as the joint width between pavers. 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch stone is used in the joints to allow stormwater to penetrate into the underlying stone. The retaining walls would be dry stacked so that water can infiltrate the area. A small Bobcat machine would be used to bring in materials and remove any excess dirt/material to be removed.

Generally, the LCC wants to reduce the amount of activity within 50' of the wetland. It was Ms. Mygatt's commented that some of the work would allow for safer access from the accessory apartment to the front of the house and at the driveway. However, the larger patio and retaining wall/ vegetable garden are not a safety need and the vegetable garden could be moved closer to the house. It was Mr. Kurtz's and Ms. Shepard's opinion that the conversion of lawn to permeable pavers and native buffer restoration is an allowable activity in the 0-50-ft Buffer Zone. Mr. Kurtz suggested that additional mitigation plantings be added to offset the patios and walkways proposed in the 0-50-ft Buffer Zone.

The Commission requested more information of how topography will change (existing and proposed spot grades) and operation and maintenance information on the patio in order to keep it pervious. The Commission would also like the Applicant to consider alternatives and see if the patio can be brought closer to the house and away from the wetland. Some Commission members requested an additional site visit opportunity. The following dates and times were established with the Applicant: June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am and June 28<sup>th</sup> after 10am.

Motion by Mr. Masterson to continue the hearing until June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m., seconded Ms. Fasciano; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

9:35 p.m. 2 Huckleberry Hill

The Commission received a request to allow minor vegetation cutting to facilitate surveying work on a densely vegetated property. The Commission found it reasonable to allow hand removal of vegetation to allow surveyors to assess the property. Motion by Mr. Kurtz to authorize staff to allow vegetation cutting, seconded by Mr. Masterson roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.