



TOWN OF LINCOLN

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

CONSERVATION OFFICE
TOWN OFFICES
P.O. BOX 6353
LINCOLN CENTER, MA 01773
781-259-2612
FAX 781-259-1677

Minutes of Open Space Committee – Public Forum 1/24/07

Angela Seaborg gave a brief introduction and review of the work that the Open Space Committee has done since the fall of 2006 including: the purpose of preparing an Open Space Plan; what the Committee's done so far; what we hope to get from residents; summary of community survey; and where we go from here.

The primary goals of the Open Space & Recreation Plan include:

- Protect Lincoln's agriculture, recreation and natural resources.
- Promote active stewardship of existing agriculture and conservation land.
- Maximize recreational opportunities by providing new facilities and maintaining current facilities to meet evolving community needs.
- Foster a sense of coordination, education and outreach regionally and locally.
- Address potential effects of zoning changes on new or existing conservation land.

Tom Gumbart provided a brief overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan focus areas including: Land Protection / Natural Resources; Stewardship / Land Management; Agriculture; and Recreation. Dan Pereira spoke about the recreation facilities and programs.

The following questions were posed by community members attending the meeting:

1. should the woods be cleaned up to improve their appearance by removing fallen trees, branches and debris? "the woods are a mess"
2. brush has grown into trees along Baker Bridge Fields
3. is the brush full of invasive species?
4. Upper Browning's field (Conant Rd/ Weston Rd)? brush needed as habitat for birds? (management will differ in different areas: some woods are kept less accessible for water protection, protection of wildlife, etc)
5. 126/Baker Bridge Rd has been worked on.
6. What about road side trees, NSTAR wants to cut back the branches: overenthusiastic trimming of limbs interferes with beauty of trees?
7. What about location of trees in relation to power lines? Should power lines be put underground? (very expensive)
8. What about overuse issues: horses, bicycles, traffic, airplanes, burning wood, dogs?
9. The surveys have been returned by more people over 60: what efforts have been made to reach younger people (response: pancake breakfast? minilink? Library?)
10. Should we try for more town ice skating areas? (safety/legal issues a concern here)

11. Should 5th grade science classes fill out the open space surveys? Should they help with clean up of invasive species?
12. What are the plans for protection of wildlife?
13. Address views and character adjacent to conservation land.
14. What about vernal pools? Is certification useful (Tom Gumbart: the vernal pools are protected even if not certified)
15. Open fields in conservation are actively managed to protect species. Help is welcomed in identifying local areas which might have vulnerable species.
16. What about gasoline access areas, are you allowed to walk on them? (no, unless there is a trail) (the easement is not a public easement)
17. Can we try to align recreation goals with conservation goals? (i.e. limiting free dogs on mount misery)
18. Can we have a mountain bike trail for kids in the center of town (current trails are too remote for safe use by kids on their own.
19. Remember to think about value of serenity, (decreased noise/ people a plus to some)
20. Are conservation lands at risk for being put to other town use (i.e. cell towers) Tom Gumbart says it is very difficult to change use of conservation land as was done for water treatment facility
21. Should we think about the carrying capacity of the open lands? Should we discourage use by people of neighboring towns? Sarah Mates comments some public funds were used for purchase of conservation land so it needs to be accessible to all.
22. Do we need to provide more public access/parking for people from outside Lincoln?
23. There are high use areas near national park/Drumlin farm which require extra management for increased use by public. Should national park trails better connect to conservation trails? (tough to get across 2a safely on foot/bike)
24. Should trails be better labeled so specific areas can be quickly reached in an emergency? (there are currently signs which can be coordinated with conservation maps if you have one)
25. Roads are open space, how close to the road should trees and walls be? Reflectors are not beautiful (but increase safety)
26. Roadside fences on private land affect the view by all. Should we have fencing size and appearance limitations? (this is hard to control on private land)
27. Remember the dark skies initiative
28. Peter von Mertens reminds us that letters to the Conservation commission are very important. They are saved and suggestions are carefully considered.

The Public forum ended with a small group break-out session to review maps and discuss specific properties and lands of interest. The Open Space Committee will take all the feedback received into account as it continues to draft the Open Space and Recreation Plan. A second public forum will be held around the end of March/beginning of April.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Mansfield, Representative
Open Space Committee