

Lincoln Conservation Commission 2012 Town Report

This year was a quiet one for the Conservation Commission. Members continue to be quite busy with other activities in their lives. Mostly our presence is felt through town emails.

Each spring we send out emails reminding people to take down their birdfeeders. The response was slow at first, but it seems that people are catching on. This member often has townspeople approach and say proudly, "I remembered to take down my birdfeeder this spring!" The importance of this practice, and others to deter bears from raiding homes, cannot be overstated. Bears in our area have become increasingly bold. A bear even stole a sheep from one homestead. Besides taking down birdfeeders by April 1st, everyone should be very careful with bags of birdseed, dog food and other animal feed, garbage, and barbeques. As much as possible, keep these things "behind closed doors." Compost can sometimes also be an issue – never put meat into compost (if nothing else it will help deter neighborhood dogs). The reason for these practices is to prevent human and bear injuries. As you know, sometimes bears must be shot if they become too inured to human habitations. We all love wildlife - let's keep it wild.

If you have an issue with a bear at your home, feel free to contact Tina Scharf for advice, but call the Game Warden if immediate action is warranted.

We also continue to send emails to townspeople in an effort to educate everyone about invasive poison parsnip. This plant is becoming more common in Lincoln. It is very prevalent in the Champlain Valley area of Addison County. We will continue this effort to encourage people to cut parsnip before flowering, on their own property and in their neighborhoods. Other invasive plants that are beginning to make inroads into Lincoln (besides the ever-present Japanese knotweed) are wild chervil and giant hogweed. Except for the knotweed, all these plants can be controlled by pulling them up or cutting them before flowering (but check that they haven't re-grown – parsnip regularly will put out new buds after cutting).

Keeping our wildlife wild and our town free from invasive plants, is, as you can see, a community effort. Thanks so much for yours!

Tina Scharf, Chair
Ilana Brett
Ed Clark
Andrew Jones
Lisa Nading
Katie Manaras