

Lincoln Conservation Commission 2017 Town Report

2017 started off very well for the LCC when the Town generously gave \$400 to help launch Lincoln's first annual *X Out Xotics Day*. We had a dedicated group of five people who organized the event. Over two dozen folks showed up in long sleeves and gloves to remove poison parsnip and wild chervil from our roadsides. They sweated and strained their backs and did a terrific job! The Town monies enabled the LCC to buy everyone lunch and give out prizes in appreciation of their effort. Many folks, who are too numerous to list, gave their enthusiastic support. Several volunteers continued their eradication efforts after the group day. We also much appreciate the efforts of some landowners who mowed particularly heavily-infested spots. Because of all your hard work, this project was a resounding success. Lincoln's roadsides were virtually free from the two plants, which was quite obvious as one drove around the area last summer.

Thank you, everyone!

As stated above, we plan to make *X Out Xotics Day* an annual event. Hopefully with time there will be ever more participation and ever less of these two exotic invasive plants in Lincoln. However, there is always new seed coming in from neighboring towns, so vigilance is important.

Another LCC-sponsored group has been meeting to discuss ways to lower our road salt usage in such a way that would be acceptable to all, both monetarily for the Town and practically for our hard-working road crew. This is not a simple question. There is no "silver bullet." We will continue to have this discussion and perhaps at some point apply for a grant. The reason for cutting down salt is the impact it is having on the New Haven River and downstream, even to Lake Champlain. Elevated salt concentrations kill the smaller inhabitants of our water, which in turn affects the entire food chain - right up to game fish such as trout.

Anyone who wants to be involved in these projects, or in the Conservation Commission in general, is encouraged to contact us. There's more room on the Commission for new members.

Respectfully submitted,

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