

Draft Lincoln Conservation Commission Minutes for July, 2022

Present: Katie Manaras, Sandra Murphy, Jan Fraga, Tina Scharf, and guest Sean Grzyb

1. The June minutes were accepted as written.
2. Willard's Woods maintenance: Sean Grzyb came to talk with us about his maintenance of Willard's Woods. He is working as he has time on clearing the trails, but there have been several windstorms this season and there is much downed wood. He reported that some bikers have been digging trails with jumps, but so far he thinks it's not too bad. How can we monitor and reduce this type of activity? Sean also suggested that we have a group clean-up day in the early spring after the snows have gone and the ground has dried out. We will revisit this idea next March and maybe plan an event. Sean's family and the Stillwell family have a ROW for a spring on the Willard's Woods property. They will sometimes need to maintain it. Sandra emailed Jamie Brookside of MALT to be sure that MALT was aware of this. We also wondered if MALT had an opinion about mowing regime. Sandra found that the conservation easement called for once a year. Generally this would be done in August or September to conserve possible bird nesting and butterfly feeding, egg-laying activity. Jan brought up the issue of ticks in tall grass. We agreed that ticks are now present in Lincoln in general, and that should not affect how we maintain the fields. The main path should be mowed more regularly though. We are still not sure who will do the mowing, or when. Perhaps Sky Gale? Katie will check with Bill Finger.
3. Invasive plants pulling summary: Tina reported that almost all the roads in Lincoln are now covered by designated volunteers, with the idea that they will check more than once. We have about 26 volunteers at this time, with just a few roads still to be covered. The group pull was attended by nine people and Tina sent them to poison parsnip problem spots. We had a delicious lunch (from the Lincoln Store) and gave away some ceramic mugs made by a friend of Judy Witters. There is still some parsnip to be removed, but it should all get done. Next year Tina would like to have a group day early in June for wild chervil. There is less awareness of this plant, which is actually spreading in town. Parsnip has been reduced in many places, but there are still spots away from the road that are probably acting as source populations. These need more attention—especially by the landowners themselves!
4. Willard's Woods map: We had a long discussion about the map design. We agreed that an artistic rendering (as opposed to a satellite photo or topo) of a "floating" map (that is, just of the property itself without the surrounding properties) would be the easiest for people to use/understand. Some details: we want the river and the road to be highlighted for orientation, even though the road would not be part of the "floating" concept. We'd like to have some artwork around the edges and some general information, e.g., allowed uses (although not so much that it's confusing). Sandra will get in touch with a Lincoln artist. If he can't do it then we will try another Lincoln artist, of which there are several. Sandra also suggested hiring a graphic artist who could put it all together. She will ask a woman she works with. Jan offered to generate a QR code that could be printed on the map. We do have a budget to hire/pay both an artist and a designer.
5. We still need to finalize the information panel. Some drafts have been shared. Katie is the lead on this.

Respectfully submitted, Tina Scharf