

In late 2001, the Lincoln Selectboard appointed five town residents to form the Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC), with subsequent confirmation by town residents at the March 2002 town meeting. Original members were Jackie Tuxill, Rose Mayo, Ali Rood, David Brown, and Larry Masterson. The Select board asked the Commission, as their first task, to provide management guidance regarding future care and use of the three town-owned forests (the Colby Hill town forest, the “Ripton lot,” and the “Urz property”). The LCC, with a grant from Yellow Wood Associates and coordination by Andrew Lindsey, carried out the “Lincoln Town Forest Project,” which included field trips and two town-wide forums to involve town residents and gather their input. The LCC submitted a project report to the Selectboard in spring 2003. During this period, Sandra Murphy joined the LCC, followed by Andrew Lindsey (upon completion of the Town Forest Project). Tina Scharf joined in 2004, and Alan Finn in 2005. Since the Urz property (where the new Town Shed is located) was valued as an educational and recreational site, the LCC helped the children of the Lincoln Community School begin a trail there. Many townspeople valued the Colby Hill Town Forest for its wildlife habitat, and the Commission has since obtained a federal grant to do some wildlife habitat improvement on that parcel. The so-called “Ripton Lot” was valued in a more commercial way. The LCC facilitated the development of a forest management plan for that property. Other Commission projects to date include marking the boundaries of the Town forests, demonstration cutting of Japanese knotweed at two small sites on the New Haven River, and seasonal walks on the Town forests. The LCC has also held town-wide Conservation Forums, engaging Lincoln residents in conversation on such issues as strategies for conserving Lincoln's natural heritage, appropriate use of Lincoln's three Town forests, and river corridor flood mitigation and planning.

All LCC activities are open to Town residents. The LCC considers itself a body that fosters dialogue on various conservation-related subjects and offers opportunities for Town residents to connect with nature. Present members are: Sandra Murphy, Chair, Katie Manaras, Lisa Nading, Jan Fraga, Judy Witters, Charlie Beyer, and Tina Scharf.

Annual activities from 2007 onward are discussed in the Town Reports listed below.