

Lincoln Conservation Commission
Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2021 MEETING
OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

FRANCINE JACKSON - CHAIR
GERALD McNALLY – CO-CHAIR
LESLIE B ALEXANDER-SECRETARY/TREASURER
EMILY ARGUETA
JARED BETHEL
NATALIE NAULT
STEPHANIE SANTOS

MEMBERS ABSENT

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Francine Jackson called the April 7, 2021 meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:23 PM.

II. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Francine made a motion to approve the March 3, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Jared. Voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Bill McManus stated what a positive impact the LCC was making. He thinks we, the LCC, could get more funding from the budget board next year. He suggested making Stephanie and Emily Project Managers to oversee cleaning up the Town. Bill comment that the website Emily created was great and that the Parks and Recreation Dept has been waiting 6 years for a website.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Federal Energy Regulation Commission – Regarding the hydroelectric dam at the Albion Dam.
Francine received a call from John Cullen regarding the stone walls within his property.

V. WETLAND APPLICATIONS: None.

VI. COMMISSION PROJECTS:

Butterfly Garden- Leslie stated she will inquire if the Town will be supplying the mulch and stone dust for the garden. Leslie made a motion to spend up to \$100.00 for water, pizza, ice, paper towels for the volunteers at the cleanup. Gerald seconded. Voted unanimously.

Shady Brook- Leslie stated that she will speak to Donna, from Keep Blackstone Beautiful, regarding the Arbor tree grant. Leslie said it was ok with the Town Administrator, as long as we do not create more work for the Public Works Dept. Leslie told the TA, we were only creating a wild flower area, to improve the looks of the area. Leslie scheduled Saturday, May 22nd, to add better soil and compost to the area. The plant wild flowers. Leslie stated she will call RIRRR for compost. Leslie made a motion to purchase \$500.00 worth of good soil. Gerald second. Voted unanimously.

Historical Cemeteries- Francine stated that John Houghton, from the Blackstone River Historical District, asked for a donation of \$500.00, to help with the rebuilding of the stone wall at cemetery #79, Great Rd. Francine made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the BRHD. Francine added that possible more could be donated, if there is more left in the budget. Gerald seconded. Francine amended the motion from \$500 to \$300, if available. Leslie second the amended motion. Voted unanimously.

Gerald stated that the McCall YMCA contacted him to organize a cleanup of the Lincoln Woods historical cemetery. Gerald stated that he planned Saturday, April 24th, from 9am-1pm. Gerald stated that the YMCA would be supplying the leaf bags.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

Leslie stated that the Narragansett Bay Commission grant will not be decided on until April 15th. Natalie stated that the Farm league had already cleanup some of the park.

Francine stated that the Breakneck Hill Road Project was sent to the State Appeals Board. No reason to appeal just yet, until the appeal has been scheduled.

Francine asked the members if they has suggestions for a LCC mission statement. Emily stated that she put a preliminary statement on the website. It reads as follows: *To uphold and conserve Lincoln's natural beauty, habitat, waterways and open space, promoting sustainability, biodiversity and historical preservation.*

Leslie made a motion to adopt this mission statement. Gerald seconded. Voted unanimously.

Francine stated that she spoke with the Towns IT person. She stated that there can be no links within the website that advertise. Emily assured there are not. The web site is: www.townoflincolnconservationcommission.org.

Leslie made a motion to reimburse Emily, \$135.00, for the year's subscription for the website. Francine seconded. Vote unanimously.

Francine stated that the budget board meeting well. Stephanie started the LCC PowerPoint presentation, with Emily finishing. The budget board gave great feedback with many compliments. Emily explained that this PowerPoint was to eventually become a website. Emily added an increase to the budget at the end of the power point. The budget board stated that was already Open Space money in the budget that had not been spent. He will suggest to the Town Administrator and Public Works Director to move that line item to the LCC budget. The amount of \$2000.00. That way the LCC would not need to be increased.

Stephanie stated that she is still interested in improving the corner of Front St and Lower Road. Leslie made a motion to spend a maximum of \$300.00 on plants and mulch for the area. Leslie stated that we need to confirm that that is Town property. Francine seconded to motion. Francine, Leslie, Stephanie, Natalie, Emily voted yes. Jared and Gerald said no. The motion is approved.

Jared had to leave the meeting at 9:18pm.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Francine stated that Leslie and she met with John Cullen. John explained that the Builder changed the plans to the project, unbenounced to John. A change was made to the placement of some of the buildings. This changed will move the stone wall 40 feet. Which in turn takes away 40 feet of the conservation area. Francine stated that John Cullen would like the LCC to write a letter of concern to the builder. Natalie questioned if the stonewalls were listed as historical. If so, they would be protected by Article 10, wall preservation. Francine made a motion to wright a letter to the builder. Gerald seconded. Voted unanimously.

Francine stated that Western Oil wants to add nine more, 300,000 gallons tanks to the Central Falls site. The project was denied by Central Falls, but is going to appeal. LCC concern is that if they leak, this will affect Lincoln downhill.

Natalie suggests that the LCC get T-shirts for all the events we partake in. Natalie stated that she will work on design the t-shirts. Leslie made a motion to spend \$200.00 on t-shirts. Gerald seconded. Voted unanimously.

Emily stated that she had learning of the City of Attleboro improving their areas in town. For example. Better recycling, banning alcoholic nips or incentive programs to return nips.

Leslie stated that she will plan a trip to Rhode Island Resource Recovery in Johnston. The new members need to see the process of recycling

Gerald stated that he would like to plan an E-Waste event for Lincoln. He will get more information and report back.

Stephanie stated that after the cleanup of Lower Rd., she decided to put up DO NOT LITTER signs. Hopefully they help. Leslie made a motion to reimburse Stephanie for the signs. Stephanie said she paid \$60.00 from Amazon. Gerald seconded. Voted unanimously.

IX. BUDGET:

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Leslie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Francine seconded the motion. Vote unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Next meeting is May 5th.

Minutes taken by Leslie B Alexander.
Respectfully submitted by,
Leslie B Alexander, Secretary
Lincoln Conservation Commission