

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
100 OLD RIVER ROAD LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND 02865

REGULAR MEETING
6 April 2005

CALLED TO ORDER
7:37 P.M.

Members Present: Commissioner Brais
 Commissioner Goldman
 Commissioner Hassett
 Commissioner McMahon
 Commissioner Perrotti

Members Absent:

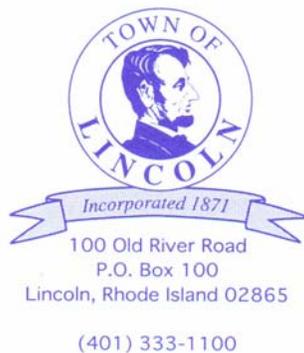
Recording Secretary's Note: This is a corrected copy of the April minutes called for and approved unanimously by the Commission

General Announcements:

1. Chairman Goldman mentioned that he had received a letter from the Budget Board and had made a budget presentation to that Board for the Conservation Commission's 2005/2006 Fiscal year.

Consent Agenda:

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes-Regular Meeting of March 2, 2005.
**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PEROTTI, SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER BRAIS AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO
APPROVE.**



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Public Comment:

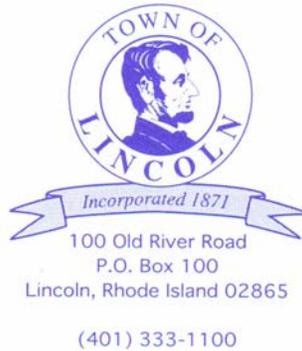
1. Michael Alexander and Leslie Alexander spoke to the Commission about the 4th annual cleanup of the Butterfly Garden. In attendance will be the local Boy Scouts, URI Master Gardeners. The Alexanders requested the release of previously allocated funds for the cleanup effort. The Commission Treasurer reviewed costs for purchases for last year's cleanup. The Commission agreed to release \$800.00 for the cleanup effort. This includes costs for mulch, insecticides and refreshments for the volunteers. Purchase requisitions were given to the Alexanders. They were told to complete these and return them to the Commission.
 - a. Commissioner McMahan made a motion to release the funds, seconded by Commissioner Brais

Communications:

1. Chairman Goldman presented the Commission with correspondence gathered since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Commissioner Brais presented the Commission with a register of line item expenses she had received from the town regarding expenditures for the 2004/2004 fiscal year. Presentation of Commissioner Brais' report was tabled until the May meeting
2. Chairman Goldman attempted to segue into a discussion on the Commission's 2005/2006 budget.
3. Commissioner McMahan objected on the grounds that a discussion on the budget that was not listed on the agenda would constitute a violation of the RI Open Meetings Law.
4. Chairman Goldman reported that he had met with the Budget Board and already presented them with a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He stated that he had asked that the budget line item of \$1150.00 stipend for the Recording Secretary be stricken from this budget.

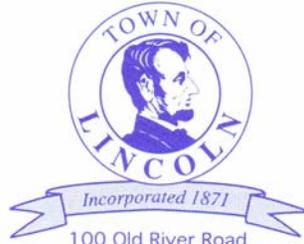


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5. Commissioner McMahan pointed out that Chairman Goldman did not have the authority to speak unilaterally for the Commission and that based on Chapter 5, Article 1 section 5-3 of the town's Code of Ordinances and Article V, Section 1, paragraph K of the Commission's By-Laws the Chairman had no authority to strike this item from the budget.
6. Chairman Goldman then appointed Commissioner Brais to establish a sub-committee on the budget that must consist of three members. As the current Recording Secretary, Commissioner McMahan recused himself. Commissioner Brais appointed Commissioner Hassett, Commissioner Perrotti and herself to the sub-committee.

Report on Indexing of Open Space:

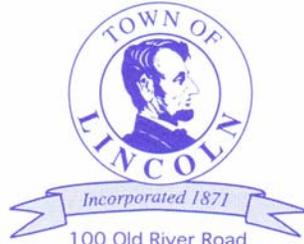
1. Commissioner McMahan briefly reviewed the three GIS case studies he sent to the Commissioners regarding the use of GIS in community planning and development.
2. Commissioner McMahan read into the record his email correspondence with Lincoln Town Planner Albert Ranaldi regarding the planner's several prior meetings with Chairman Goldman regarding this project.
3. Commissioner McMahan turned the presentation over to Chairman Goldman and asked the Chairman to tell the Commission about what he had learned in his detailed meetings with the Town Planner.
4. Chairman Goldman circulated a letter he had drafted to the town planner in 2002. As of the May 2005 meeting, this letter was not entered into the record.
5. Chairman Goldman stated that it would not be possible for the Commission to be involved with the creation of the Open Space Index stating further that even to do a "half-assed" job would require more resources than the Commission had available.
6. Commissioner McMahan pointed out that Chairman Goldman's statement was in direct conflict with state statute 45-35-1.
7. Chairman Goldman mentioned that he was considering a call to the town planner canceling his appearance at the May meeting.
8. Commissioner McMahan left the meeting.
9. Chairman Goldman reconsidered cancellation of town planner's presentation



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Old Business:

New Business:

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted:
Timothy E. McMahon, Commissioner
Secretary Lincoln Conservation Commission



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Appendix 1: Email between Town Planner and Commissioner McMahon concerning Open Space Indexing project

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim McMahon [mailto:txm@ams.org]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2005 1:20 PM
To: Ranaldi, Albert
Subject: Invitation to address Conservation Commission

Dear Mr. Ranaldi,

My name is Tim McMahon and I am the Recording Secretary for Lincoln's Conservation Commission. One of our primary tasks under the Code of Ordinances is that we "shall make and keep an index of all open spaces within the Town in publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas."

I've been in touch with Councilman Jay O'Grady who tells me that the town's GIS indexing of Lincoln is almost complete. The Commission believes this might be the tool that allows us to meet our requirement under the Code to create the above mentioned index. The catch is, that none of us is particularly well versed in what GIS is, how it is employed and it's uses in town development and conservation efforts.

Would it be possible for you to address the Commission and provide us with some background on GIS and how the town is using this tool. We would also like to know how GIS, along with the Planner's office, might help us met our responsibilities.

We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at Town Hall. Are you free to meet with us at our April 6th meeting?

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

--

Tim

Timothy E. McMahon	Email: txm@ams.org
Electronic Publishing Specialist	Phone: 1.401.455.4077
American Mathematical Society	Fax: 1.401.331.3842



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ranaldi, Albert wrote:

Hi Tim – I would be happy to meet with the CC but I have a conflict in April – is May OK – Please advise

Very Truly Yours,

Albert V. Ranaldi, Jr. AICP
Town of Lincoln – Town Planner

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tim McMahon [mailto:txm@ams.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 8:29 AM
To: Ranaldi, Albert
Subject: Re: Invitation to address Conservation Commission

Hi Al,

Thanks for getting back to me on this. May would be great. I'll touch base with you in late April to make sure schedules are still viable. Thanks again.

Tim

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Ranaldi, Albert wrote:
I'll mark my calenda

Very Truly Yours,

Albert V. Ranaldi, Jr. AICP
Town of Lincoln – Town Planner

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim McMahon [mailto:txm@ams.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 3:14 PM
To: Ranaldi, Albert
Cc: Tim McMahon
Subject: Re: Invitation to address Conservation Commission

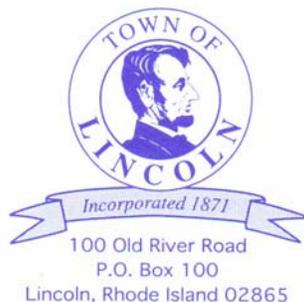
Al,
Would it be possible for me to schedule an hour or so w/ you before the end of March. The Chairman would like me to make a report at our April meeting on how we should approach our duty of making an "index of open space". Having no experience with this other than reading the Comprehensive Plan and some articles on GIS, I'd like to learn what you think our role in that task can/should be. Based on what I learn from you, I'll provide a high level overview to the Commission in April and prep them for your talk in May. Thanks for your time.

Tim
=====

Ranaldi, Albert wrote:

Tim – I have had several meeting with the new Chairman of the CC on GIS – What we have planned for the “index of Open Space” is to identify each parcel with a specific color – we will create a map layer for the entire town so when some asks “where are all the open space parcels within Town” we can simply click on the map layer and the parcels will appear – Each parcel will also be active, which means that when someone clicks on the parcel – specific data will appear – we can create and input whatever data the CC wishes – the process and the system is as simple as I just described to you and as I described to the Chairman on several detailed occasions. While I would love to meet with you, my time is very limited. Therefore, I have to decline your request for a “pre-meeting”. I look forward to meeting with the CC in May.

Very Truly Yours,
Albert V. Ranaldi, Jr. AICP
Town of Lincoln – Town Planner



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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Meeting with the Conservation Commission in May
Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2005 13:42:46 -0400
From: Tim McMahon <txm@ams.org>
Organization: American Mathematical Society
To: Ranaldi, Albert <aranaldi@lincolnri.org>

Hello Al,

As I promised in an earlier mail, this is a follow-up to see that you are still available to address the Conservation Commission at our May 4th meeting so we can talk about the town's GIS project and the indexing of open space. Thanks for your reply.

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Tim

Timothy E. McMahon	Email: txm@ams.org
Electronic Publishing Specialist	Phone: 1.401.455.4077
American Mathematical Society	Fax: 1.401.331.3842
