

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

2016 Annual Report

The LLCT and RLF are two sister private non-profit organizations working together along with the Conservation Commission to preserve Lincoln's rural character through land conservation and responsible development.

October 2016 planting. Photo by Jenifer Tidwell

YEAR IN REVIEW:

ACQUISITION & STEWARDSHIP	Page 2, 3
EDUCATION	Page 4
PROFILE	Page 5
SPECIAL EVENTS	Page 6
MEMBERSHIP	Page 7
FINANCIALS	Page 7
LINCOLN STATION	Page 8



Our Missions

The LLCT strives to preserve the rural character of Lincoln; to acquire and maintain undeveloped lands in town; to develop walking trails therein; to promote sound conservation practices; and to encourage preservation, enjoyment, education, and scientific study of Lincoln's natural areas.

The RLF's mission is to preserve the natural beauties and rural character of the Town of Lincoln through protection of open space for recreation and conservation of land, forestry and wildlife; promotion of responsible real estate development and sound conservation practices; and research in land use and land use planning.

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Printed May 2017.

People for Pollinators Blossoms



Anna Wilkins and Birch School student at the June 2016 planting. Photo by Jenifer Tidwell.

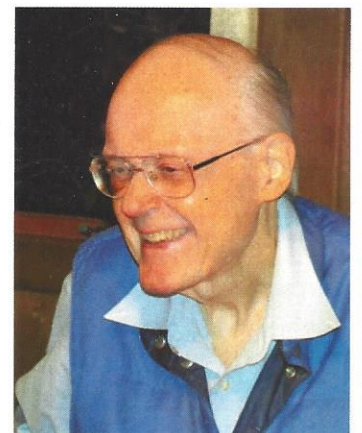
In April 2015 the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) was approached by Birches School (an independent, K-8, nature-based school founded by two Lincoln parents), to create a pollinator-friendly meadow in response to serious declines in pollinator populations. A parcel of land protected by LLCT and located in the field adjacent to the Smith School of the Lincoln School was selected. A partnership was created and soon additional organizations and individuals joined the project resulting in the formation of "People for Pollinators."

People for Pollinators is a collaboration of the LLCT, Birches School, Lincoln Garden Club, Lincoln Conservation Commission, Lincoln Agricultural Commission, Stonegate Gardens, (continued on page 3)

Thomas E. Pascoe Legacy

In 2016 the LLCT received a substantial legacy gift of \$450,000 from Thomas E. Pascoe. Tom moved to Lincoln in 1996 but, like many of us, he first knew Lincoln as a place to walk and enjoy nature.

Tom was a nature lover, talented nature photographer, art and music lover, and food and wine enthusiast. In deciding what to do with his estate he chose to focus on smaller, local charities where he felt his gifts would make the biggest impact. Three out of the four charities he chose are in (continued on page 8)



Tom Pascoe photograph courtesy of Ellen Meadors.

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Land Protection

The Wang Project: Looking Toward Lincoln's Future



Conserved land.



Students at Birches School in an 'outdoor classroom.'

In the summer of 2016 the Rural Land Foundation began to explore the purchase of the Wang property located at 100 Bedford Road. The property includes the former Wang home and the 16 acres upon which it sits. A public-private partnership was formed by the **Rural Land Foundation and Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, Birches School, Lincoln Conservation Commission, and Lincoln Youth Soccer**, providing a unique solution to three different needs. Over \$200K was raised toward the project, including a \$50K grant from The Ogden Codman Trust, and \$1.8M in Community Preservation Act funds was approved at the March 2017 Town Meeting.



Conceptual drawing of the athletic field.

Nine acres have been purchased by the Town for conservation which connects to existing conservation land. This land is also available as a swap for the proposed solar panel field planned at the Transfer Station. Three acres have been allocated to the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department to build a new athletic field. Long identified as a town need, the new field accommodates the increased demands of organized sports in town and the deteriorating quality of the existing fields due to overuse. Finally, the remaining four acres have been purchased by Birches School, a K-8 nature-based, micro-school. The school was founded by two Lincoln parents in 2012 and has outgrown its present home at the Stone Church. ♪

Generous Conservators Ensure Rural Viewscapes and a Permanent Trail in the Heart of Lincoln

Generous property owners and equally generous neighbors are a significant reason why Lincoln looks the way it does today with beautiful open spaces, a vast trail network, and a unique rural character. During 2016, RLF and LLCT worked with **Geoff and Brooke Hargreaves-Heald** (Sandy Pond Road) on the conservation of a building lot adjacent to the Smith-Andover Field in the Town's Historic Center. The Hargreaves-Heald family generously agreed on a bargain sale of the property in order to provide permanent protection of this important parcel. With financial support from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) through a vote at Town Meeting, as well as from the RLF and over 20 neighbors near the property, the land was purchased and is now permanently conserved ensuring rural viewscapes from Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln Road, and the Smith-Andover Field. As part of the project, a permanent walking trail will link the town center to the Lincoln Schools. ♪



30 Years, 15 Acres and 2 Charitable Landowners

In December 2016, **Peter Schliemann** donated the last buildable lot in the 20-acre Mosher-Schliemann cluster subdivision first developed in 1980 off of Silver Hill Road. Through the years, over 15 acres of land have been permanently conserved either through donations or conservation restrictions. "This is another example of generous Lincoln residents playing a major role in helping protect the Town's beautiful open spaces," stated Geoff McGean, Executive Director for RLF and LLCT. "Lincoln looks the way it does because of the continued foresight, hard work and generosity of its residents" added McGean. ♪

For more information on conservation restrictions and/or land donations, contact Geoff McGean, Executive Director of LLCT/RLF.

Stewardship & Land Management

People for Pollinators Blossoms *continued...*

and individuals in the Lincoln community. The collective is dedicated to the promotion, protection, and creation of habitat that supports the vitality of pollinators.

On June 4, 2016 People for Pollinators hosted a community-wide planting where a 4000 SF meadow was installed using over 700 plant plugs. The following October an additional 1,000 bulbs of daffodil and crocus plants, donated by Stonegate Gardens, were laid in the ground by Lincoln School students, both Lincoln-based and Boston-based (METCO program), and Birches School students, alongside members of the People for Pollinators project.



The plants and seeds selected for the meadow are chemical-free and span the foraging season for most pollinators, especially bumblebees, honeybees and butterflies: early spring through late fall. Plant varieties were selected based on evidence that our local pollinators are attracted to them, and they represent mostly native or naturalized species. There are over a dozen different plant species represented. We expect that it will take five years for the meadow to get established, but it is already flourishing in its first year.



Birches School teacher and student measuring and marking one of the two experimental plots.

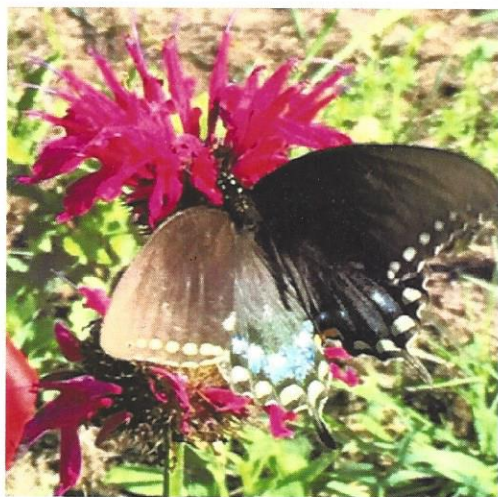
An Experiment

A Lincoln beekeeper and soil consultant is working with students at Birches School to experiment with soil health, plant growth, and pollinator activity. In spring of 2016, students conducted classroom experiments testing soil health and plant growth, and they found that nutrient-rich soil produced more robust plants. The soil at the meadow, which is on land that has been historically hayed and farmed, was tested and found to be deficient in several essential minerals.

For the experiment, two circular plots have been designed at the meadow: one plot has been mineralized and one plot has been left untreated. No pesticides of any kind are being used in either plot. Both plots have plants and seeds that are of the same type and have been planted in the same location. Sun exposure, water drainage and other factors are variables. Over time, the consultant and students at Birches School will record their observations on plant growth and pollinator activity.

Participate

Visitors to the meadow are encouraged to record their observations at inaturalist.org/projects/people-for-pollinators. Become a citizen scientist, and share your findings with the project and with scientific repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to help scientists find and use our data. All you have to do is observe! iNaturalist is simple to use and works on all devices. Sign up today and participate! 🦋



A Spicebush Swallowtail on bee balm (Monarda) in the meadow.

People for Pollinators is generously supported by grants from Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, Birches School, and a private donor.

A Unique Partnership

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Birches School signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2016 which is believed to be the first formal elementary school/land conservancy partnership in the country. The joint purpose is to educate the next generation of conservators of the environment; to create outdoor teaching and research facilities; and to utilize conservation land in Lincoln in ways that can be of life-changing benefit to the children of Lincoln and nearby communities, as well as to the local ecosystem.

Educational Outreach

Walks, Talks, Movie Nights and More

In 2016 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) engaged over 500 participants at walks, talks, movie nights, and other outreach events.

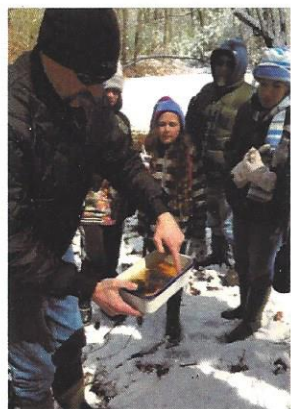
During the colder months, LLCT runs its popular environmental film series which in 2016 included: "Touching the Wild," "Spoil," "Owl Power," "Wings of Life," and "Moose: Life of a Twig Eater." Frequently special guests provide brief and interesting remarks to supplement our films: **Gwyn Loud**, trustee and chair of the Education Committee, shared facts about the elusive moose in New England. Local birder, **Norman Levey**, informed about Lincoln's owl populations and delighted the audience with owl recordings of his own.

In keeping with the owl theme, LLCT brought **Mark and Marcia Wilson** of Eyes on Owls to Bemis Hall for a fabulous afternoon of owl introductions. Audience members were able to see six different owls up close, and they learned naturalist's skills to find wild owls and how to protect them. All enjoyed this lively and informative program!



Marcia and Mark of Eyes on Owls.

Following the exceptionally dry summer, our community was eager to hear from panelists **Richard Primack**, professor of Biology at Boston University; **Greg Woods**, Superintendent of the Lincoln Water Department; and **Daniela Caride**, member of the Lincoln Garden Club on the drought. We are experiencing a warming trend associated with global warming and our entire ecosystem is devastatingly impacted; still, Lincolnite's water use is substantially higher than state standards, especially during the summer months. Particular attention was given to ways one can proactively change lawn and garden care practices.



Matt Burne leading the vernal pool walk.

As we do each spring, we began our 2016 walks with a vernal pool exploration led by **Matt Burne**, a herpetologist and Conservation Director for The Walden Woods Project. Despite the April snowfall, participants were still able to see up close frog eggs, a spotted salamander and rarer three-toed salamander, fairy shrimp, and other creatures that inhabit spring pools.

In April and May, Trustee **Gwyn Loud**, along with local birders **Vinny Durso**, **Nancy Hammond**, **Norman Levey**, and Trustee **Nancy Soulette**, led the Spring Birding Series at various locations in Lincoln. In June, Norman and Nancy Soulette facilitated an additional walk at Farm Meadow to observe nesting bobolinks who arrive in Lincoln all the way from Argentina! Also in June, at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum **Anna Wilkins**, LLCT Stewardship Coordinator, led an invasive plant walk on deCordova grounds that was part of the exhibit, "Overgrowth."

Concluding the 2016 season of walks was a memorable evening with night-singing insects in the fields at Lindentree Farm with local naturalist, **Norman Levey**. Participants learned how to discriminate and identify, by ear, species of crickets and katydids by means of careful listening and song matching using an audio field guide.

Rounding out the year were two co-sponsored programs with the Lincoln Garden Club: "A Storm of Angels – Creating Habitat for Migratory Songbirds" with fine art photographer and ecologist, **Brooks Mathewson**, and "New Projects: The Lincoln Way" with panelists **Pete Lowy** of Codman Community Farm, **J. Harrison** of The Food Project, and **Jane Gruba-Chevalier** (LLCT Outreach Director), **Robin Wilkerson** (local, native habitat gardener) and **Anna Wilkins** (LLCT Stewardship Coordinator) of People for Pollinators. Audience members felt prideful hearing about the wonderful work being done by so many good people in our small town.

Finally, a special highlight of the year was hearing from **Sara Lewis**, professor of biology at Tufts University and long-time Lincoln resident, on her fascinating new book of 2016, "Silent Sparks: The Wondrous World of Fireflies" at our LLCT/RLF annual meeting. Sara spoke to a packed audience about the wonder and delight of fireflies, and shared her decades of research, much of which has been conducted right here in Lincoln. ♪



Spring birding at Pigeon Hill.



Photo by Vanessa Perini.

Gratitude and Best Wishes for Our Friend and Colleague, Anna Wilkins

This April we celebrated the work and legacy of our colleague, Anna Wilkins, who has taken on a new position as the Executive Director of the North County Land Trust in north central Massachusetts.

Over the last six years, Anna has systematically and effectively shaped the outreach component of the Land Trust and helped to usher in a new era of collaborative work among paid and volunteer staff. Prior to Anna's hiring, the LLCT had for decades been run entirely by volunteers and, as only Anna could, she seamlessly integrated into the workflow, and creatively and thoughtfully elevated the productivity of the Land Trust. From expanding community engagement through diversified programming and the Scarecrow Classic 5K, to skillfully implementing procedures and best practices for CR monitoring and land management, Anna has laid a

solid foundation for the LLCT. Her breadth of knowledge, depth of experience, and easy way of going about everything have all positively contributed to the sustained legacy of Lincoln's proud conservation ethos and celebrated rural character.

Before parting, we sat down with Anna to reflect on her time at the LLCT/RLF. We'd like to share some highlights of that conservation here.

For those of us who don't know, when and how did you first get involved in the LLCT/RLF? Back in 2004 I was living in Vermont working for my alma mater Sterling College (a small environmental college in the Northeast Kingdom). I was looking to move back to Massachusetts to be closer to my family. The Stewardship Intern position at LLCT came to my attention and I applied. Buzz Constable talked with me for an hour and hired me on the spot!

What was your first impression? I'll tell you that my first impression of Lincoln was that it reminded me of the villages in Vermont. I came to learn that this was very intentional and was a direct result of the work of the LLCT, RLF, and Conservation Commission—which is to say, the citizens of Lincoln. I was very impressed by that. I still am.

What's the best thing to happen during your tenure? The personal connections that I have made over the years. I have met some of the most interesting, charismatic, intelligent, caring, and thoughtful people during my time in Lincoln. I also am extremely thankful to get to know one place on earth so well. I probably know Lincoln—people, places, stories, plants, and wildlife—better than any other place. I feel very privileged to have that kind of intimate knowledge.

What has surprised you most about working for LLCT/RLF? Before working for the LLCT/RLF, I never knew how hard it can be to answer the question, "Who owns this land?" Property boundaries, old survey plans, deeds and restrictions, partial ownership, trusts, homeowners associations, and neighbor disputes can (and often do) cloud what seems to be a simple question.

What do you wish other people knew about LLCT/RLF? I wish people could see the dedication and hard work of the LLCT/RLF staff and trustees. Our staff and trustees are your neighbors and friends! They care a lot about our town and work very hard to walk the fine line of protection vs. development, keeping what is best for the Town, as a whole, in mind always. I would love for more Lincolniters to get involved on the volunteer or sub-committee level, or even think about committing to a board position. We need more citizens to help us with the challenges of keeping protected land unencumbered in perpetuity. Forever is a long time. We will always need the next generation to step up.

What would you say are your strongest beliefs about stewardship and land management in Lincoln? Lincoln has some habitats that are fairly intact and great examples of native, natural habitats. On a technical side for Land Management, I would say the care of these areas should be prioritized. New threats due to climate change, invasive species, and increased human activity will not be subsiding anytime soon and we need to be aware of ways in which we are helping or harming natural systems' ability to cope with these challenges.

What is your parting wish for the organization? I think my parting wish for the organization is for our Town to recognize that, while there are still some properties that should be conserved, the bulk of that work has been done and we all need to support the LLCT/RLF at the highest level possible so that they have the resources they need to transition to this next phase of the organization: Stewarding the land in perpetuity. If every household could show their support for this important and on-going work, I have no fears for Lincoln's conservation legacy.

Our sincere thanks to Anna for her many years of service at the LLCT/RLF. May the tread of the trail always be clear and wide for you, Anna. Come back often. 🌿



Baker Bridge Fields, Photo by Jane Layton.

4th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K



A photo finish for a Lincoln racer.

For a fourth straight year racers were greeted by a glorious mid-October morning. A record 500+ runners and walkers gathered at Lincoln Station to participate in the annual Scarecrow Classic 5k to benefit the LLCT.

This year the route featured facts and figures about the protected fields, forests and wetlands that the racers' traverse. The now famous hand-made life sized scarecrows guided participants along the way, and also colorfully adorned the lawn at Lincoln Station. Local band, White Collar Crime, kept the mood festive and delicious soup from Donelans, with cider donuts from Wilson Farm, kept the crowd comforted around a warm fire.

Several local residents were winners in their particular age group and all who participated shined in the moment they crossed the finish line, including several dogs! The LLCT is thankful to all of the participants, volunteers, and business sponsors who made 2016



This dog had a 'woofderful' time!

our best year yet. Over 85 local and regional businesses generously supported the event with financial, in-kind and raffle contributions, including our lead sponsors: Thoughtforms, Cranberry Hill Associates, Benchmark Senior Living at the Commons in Lincoln, BMW of Sudbury, Barrett Sotheby's International Realty, and Iemello Landscape. Additionally, several sponsors staffed booths providing participant's with race-day giveaways and discount services, including Trail's End Café, Get In Shape for Women in Weston and Winchester, Bjornson Family Dentistry, ACE Wayland Home and Design, L.L. Bean, and Barrett Sotheby's International Realty. Proceeds from the race support the LLCT's stewardship, land acquisition, and education work.

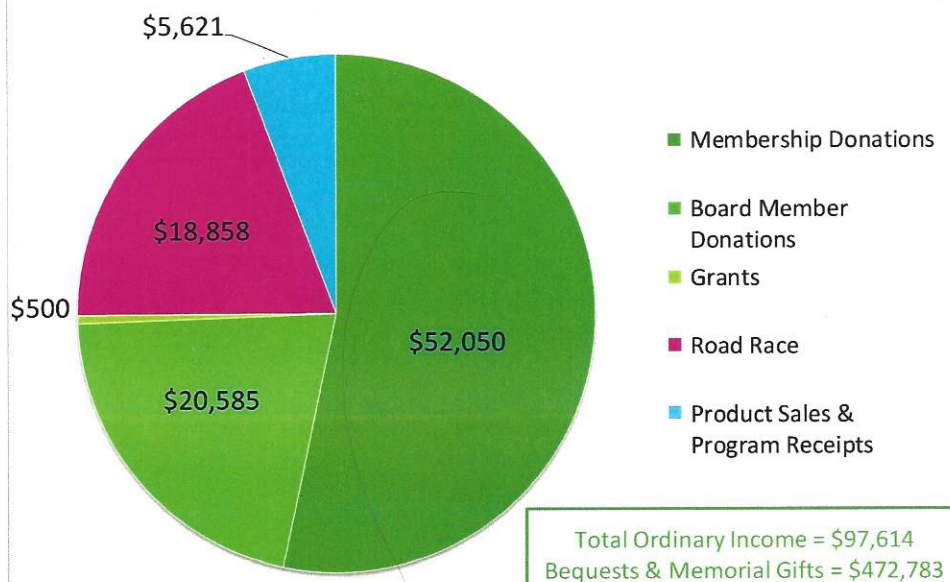
The Scarecrow Classic is a fun annual event for the Lincoln community and MetroWest, and the 2017 race is already scheduled for Sunday morning October 15. Mark your calendars and for more information, please visit the race website at www.scarecrowclassic5k.com.



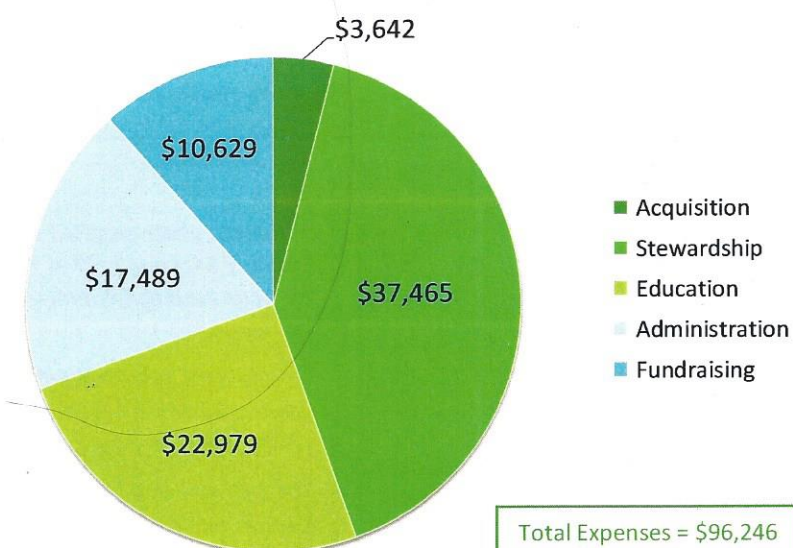
Lincoln's finest with Magic Garden's "Princess Cookie Tree."

2016 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

2016 LLCT Income



2016 LLCT Expenses



2016 Membership

Total Number of Members

285

Leadership Level (\$1000+)

27

Friend (\$500-999)

16

Sustaining (\$250-499)

43

Supporting (\$100-249)

111

Patron (\$75-99)

32

Basic (\$35-74)

51

Other

5



Thomas E. Pascoe Legacy *continued...*

Lincoln: LLCT, the Friends of the Lincoln Council on Aging, and Mass Audubon. The fourth was the Boston Early Music Festival.

For LLCT, Tom's gift is a game-changer. It means that we now have sufficient assets to maintain a stewardship fund and a legal defense fund to protect our conservation land for the long term. It also enables us to help RLF act quickly when future land acquisition opportunities arise. We want to take a moment to remember and thank Tom for his incredible generosity. We also want to thank Tom's friends who contributed to LLCT in his memory, and to thank all the Land Trust members who have supported us through the years. This legacy of giving sustains us. ♡

For information about charitable gift planning to benefit LLCT/RLF, contact Geoff McGean, Executive Director of the Land Trust.

All Trails Lead to Lincoln Kitchen

The Rural Land Foundation is excited to welcome Lincoln Kitchen and Trails End Café to Lincoln Station. The owner's, Jim and Carol White of Lincoln and their daughter Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore, opened the two new restaurants to rave reviews.

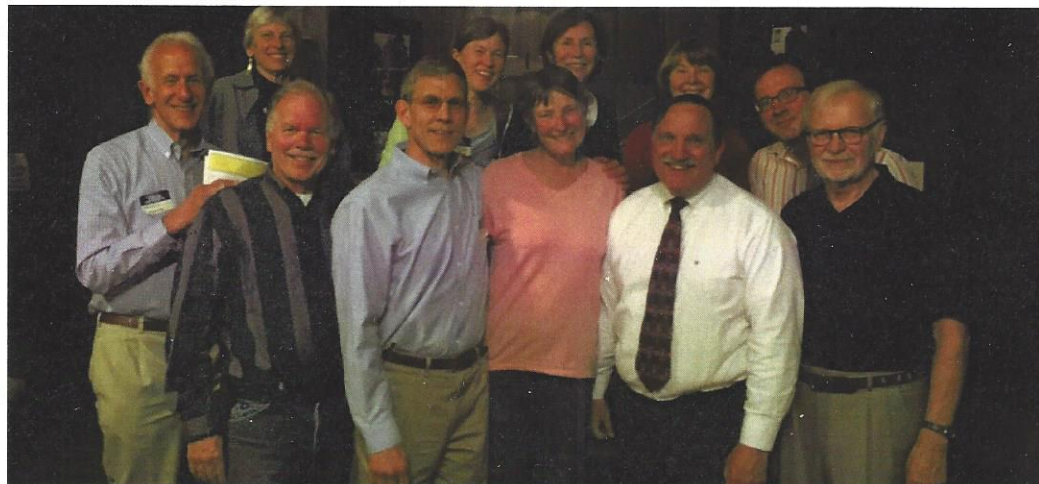
Lincoln Kitchen serves "high-end comfort food" for lunch and dinner along with cocktails, wine, and craft beer on tap and in bottles. Trail's End Café, Lincoln, in the former Whistle Stop space, is a "casual breakfast and lunch venue" that offers homemade baked goods, sandwiches, salads, coffee and espresso drinks.

On her return to Lincoln, Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore, a Concord attorney who opened the original Trails End Café in Concord in 2011 said "I am very excited to open two new restaurants in my hometown. Both restaurants will maintain our commitment to serving delicious food, homemade from thoughtfully sourced ingredients, using local products when possible."

Take a date night, meet up with friends, or bring your family for a delicious experience at our town's newest eating establishments. Catering is also available. ♡



Lincoln Station restaurant owners and town residents, Jim White and his daughter, Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore.



Trustees photographed at the 2016 Annual Meeting held at The Walden Woods Project. (Not all trustees are pictured.)

In the back row from left to right: Nancy Soulette, Meghan Lytton, Susan Allen, Ellen Meadors, and Bob Mason.

In the front row from left to right: Andy Falender, Jim Henderson, Paul Shorb, Gwyn Loud, Buzz Constable, and Ken Bassett.

2016 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen	Andrew Gnazzo, <i>Vice - Treasurer</i>	Ellen Meadors, <i>Treasurer</i>
Michelle Barnes	James Henderson	Paul Shorb, <i>Vice - Chair</i>
Kenneth Bassett	Weston Howland, III	Nancy Soulette, <i>Secretary</i>
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Andrew Falender	Bob Mason	