

Annual Report

2013



Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Annual Report

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Who We Are—

The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT), founded in 1957, is one of the oldest private land trusts in the country. The LLCT is dedicated to “maintaining the rural character of the Town for the benefit of the inhabitants of Lincoln.” Now well into its sixth decade of conservation work, the LLCT continues to fulfill its mission thanks to the dedicated efforts of its trustees, members, donors, friends, and other supporting organizations in Lincoln and beyond. Thank you!

The Rural Land Foundation (RLF) is a sister organization of the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust. It works in concert with the LLCT and the Town’s Conservation Commission to protect undeveloped land and preserve Lincoln’s rural character. Since its founding in 1965, the RLF has applied creative solutions to preserve natural resources by acquiring lands for conservation purposes and helping private landowners place portions of their properties under conservation restrictions.

Each organization is run by a non-profit board of trustees who are all Lincoln residents. The boards are supported by two staff people: a full-time executive director, Geoff McGean, and a part-time outreach coordinator, Anna Wilkins.



The Scarecrow Classic 5k

For the past few years, the LLCT has wanted to host a large annual community event that would celebrate our conservation lands, attract those who may not otherwise attend our other events, bring us all together in a fun creative way, and generate funds for the organization. Early in the spring we connected with John Childs and Chuck Peobody, from Old Colony Running Events, whose mission is to help other non-profits raise awareness and funds through 5k races. We saw the potential and seized the opportunity.

Along with Chuck and John, Dan Pereira from the Recreation Department helped us with the nuts and bolts of orchestrating a 5k race. LLCT trustees Ellen Withrow, Dan England, and Ken Bassett worked hard collecting business and individual sponsors for the race. Carol Kendrick, property manager for the Mall at Lincoln Station, helped with sponsors and preparing the facilities. The rest of our trustees and 20 other local volunteers helped that weekend. Without everyone’s efforts, race day would not have happened.

On a glorious late October morning in Lincoln, over 350 runners and walkers gathered at Lincoln Station to participate in the first annual Scarecrow Classic 5k to benefit the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust. The race route highlighted the beautiful fields, forests and wetlands that have been preserved through the years, thanks to the efforts of so many committed town residents, finishing at Lincoln Station for some post-race music, food and fun.

Several local residents were winners in their particular age group and everyone who finished was smiling. Over 50 local and regional businesses generously supported the event



Friends gather before running the Scarecrow Classic 5k

Angela Kearney



Racers finish the Scarecrow Classic

Special Thanks to the Following 2013 Volunteers:

Lynne Smith
Selina Rossiter
Lindsay Clemens
Vinny Durso
Robin Wilkerson
Katherine Mierzwa
Jason Felsch
Matt Burne
Greg Woods
The Flint Family
All our Scarecrow Classic volunteers
And many, many others who help us
on the land and with our mission.



2013 Lincoln Trail Map

Henry Tepper talking with trustee
Ken Bassett at our 2013 annual
meeting

with financial, in-kind contributions or items for our popular raffle. The raffle was a fun way for everyone to show support and win great prizes. The LLCT wants to thank all of the participants, volunteers and business sponsors who helped make the event a resounding success. Proceeds from the race are helping to support the LLCT's stewardship, land acquisition and education work.

The LLCT hopes to make the Scarecrow Classic an annual fun event for the Lincoln community. This year's race is already scheduled for Sunday morning October 19; mark your calendars! For more information on the race, please visit the race website www.scarecrowclassic.com.

Publications

In November, we released the long-awaited 2013 Town of Lincoln Trail Map. This trail map is updated from the previous version published in 2003. All of the trails were captured using the Town's GPS unit, thanks to the work of the Town's Land Manager, Dave McKinnon. The trails were then verified on the ground by Conservation Department and LLCT staff and board members. New map features include building outlines, field stippling, trails in surrounding towns, and numbered gate posts. The updated map also incorporates the new location system that the Town will install in the spring of 2014, with routed wooden signs marked with a letter-number combination at selected trail junctions. Many volunteer and staff hours went into this current map update. We hope it will facilitate years of enjoyable outings. The map is available at the Town Offices, Library, Old Town Hall Exchange, Something Special, and the MassAudubon Shop at Drumlin Farm for \$10. Members get a 20% discount when purchasing maps in our offices. As a companion to the map, the LLCT's *A Guide to Conservation Land in Lincoln* is still available and continues to be an excellent resource that enhances exploration of Lincoln's conservation lands.

We continue to use our newest book, *The Nature of Lincoln* by board member Sue Klem, to make local and regional connections. We are happy to hear that it has reached the hands of Lincoln-ophiles across the country, re-connecting them to this special place. Frame-worthy prints of the wonderful illustrations from the book are also available for sale at the Old Town Hall Exchange.

The popular wildlife column for the *Lincoln Journal* continues to be written by Gwyn Loud once a month. Send your wildlife sightings to her at gwyn_loud@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting

At the LLCT's 2013 Annual Meeting held in May at The Commons (formerly The Groves), we welcomed our guest speaker Henry Tepper to Lincoln. Mr. Tepper had just been hired as the new president of Mass Audubon, whose headquarters are located in Lincoln. Mr. Tepper talked about his most recent previous position, working on conservation projects in Patagonia, Chile, and how his career track brought him back to New England.

We said farewell to outgoing trustee Gary Anderson, who served on the board for many years and always brought great expertise to all of our projects.

Susan Welsh led the meeting and we celebrated her outstanding tenure as chair over the last few years.

Afterwards, the majority of the attendees stayed to mingle and chat, completing the fun and lively evening.

Stewardship

Land Management

Preserving conservation land as “natural” requires constant effort, which includes managing trails, stonewalls, fields, field edges, and invasive species. Weather extremes in 2013 made such efforts more necessary, placing additional unusual burdens on the LLCT as it maintained approximately 60 miles of inter-connected trails throughout Town. However, the Land Trust properties remained well cared for, thanks to countless volunteers; the work of two summer land management interns, Adam Gentile and Ben Clements; the Conservation Commission staff who helped manage the interns while our staff member was on maternity leave; and the continued efforts of long-time LLCT President Buzz Constable. We continue to assist with invasive removal and field edge clearing projects with the Farrar Pond Condo Association. In addition, the LLCT supported the Conservation Commission’s highly successful town-wide “Garlic Mustard Pull”.



Adam Gentile,
Land Management Intern

Education

Lincoln Schools

Our educational outreach continued to reach residents of all ages. Our grant to the Lincoln Public Schools, now in its fourth year, brought teacher-naturalists from Drumlin Farm to work with students and teachers in grades one, five, and seven to study ecology through exploring the local outdoors. We were delighted that, due to the success of the program, the Schools incorporated both program and funding into the school budget, starting in the 2013-14 year. For the second year, we provided funds from the Warren Flint, Jr. Memorial Fund to take all third graders to Matlock Farm to help the students learn about local history and colonial farming methods.



Families explore with vernal pool
expert Matt Burne

Walks, Talks and Events

LLCT offered several nature walks during the year on such topics as vernal pools, spring and fall birding, and Lincoln’s drinking water.

In the spring, the revised edition of our children’s *Passport to Lincoln Conservation Land* was released at a special “Junior Hiker’s” walk, lead by Jason Felsch. We’d like to remind Lincolniters with children in their care that the new edition, now available at the children’s desk at the Lincoln Public Library, is a fun way to get families out on the trails. Our monthly winter environmental film series continued with showings of four varied and interesting films. We organized “walks and talks”, including a bird walk, exploration of a vernal pool, and visits in spring and fall to Robin Wilkerson’s native plant garden. A popular family program on raptors was held at Bemis Hall. Greg Woods, Lincoln’s Water Dept. superintendent, led a walk by Flint’s Pond focused on our drinking water.



Tom Ricardi and his raptors
captivate a multi-generational
audience

Land Acquisition

The Rural Land Foundation completed work to protect over 53 acres of forested land just north of Route 2. The land, part of the North Lincoln Legacy Project, was formerly owned by the DeNormandie family, and has long been of conservation interest to the Town. The newly conserved land will be managed for conservation and watershed protection purposes. This acquisition is the result of a multi-year collaborative effort between the City of

Cambridge, the Town of Lincoln, Lincoln's conservation organizations (RLF, LLCT and the Conservation Commission), and the DeNormandie family. Thanks to the generosity of these groups and Lincoln residents (including CPA support), sufficient funds were raised to purchase this land and place it in permanent conservation.

The City of Cambridge played a major role in helping Lincoln conserve this valuable piece of land. This is the third project in the last 10 years where Cambridge, through its watershed protection program, has contributed significant funds to help Lincoln conserve lands of conservation interest. Chip Norton, long-time Cambridge Watershed Protection Manager, was instrumental in working with us to make these projects successful and securing major funding from the City of Cambridge. It is with profound sadness that we report the sudden passing of Chip in January. Chip was an outstanding guy and will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Chip Norton

The Mall at Lincoln Station

In 1972, RLF acquired 71 acres of the Codman estate. This project created affordable housing ("Lincoln Woods", in partnership with the Lincoln Foundation), established significant conservation and recreation space (55 acres), and established a commercial center under local control (Lincoln Station). Today the proceeds from the commercial operation help fund RLF's efforts to protect Lincoln's rural character.

AKA Bistro



Christian Touche and Chris Chung

In December 2013, a heating malfunction caused water damage in AKA Bistro. The restaurant is working diligently with its insurance company to do the necessary repairs to re-open as soon as possible. The restaurant plans to re-open in late April. We encourage everyone to give Christian Touche and Chris Chung, the owners, a warm welcome back upon their return.

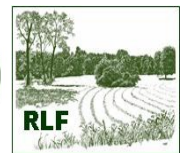
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We're on the web!

www.lincolnconservation.org



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2013 LLCT Financial Summary

2013 Receipts

Direct Public Support (Membership and Donations)	\$66,463
Sale of Maps and Books	9,100
Other Income	37,176
Total Receipts	\$112,739

2013 Expenses

Acquisition and Stewardship	\$16,596
Education	11,188
Membership and Outreach	29,350
Administration	12,133
Publications	11,680
Total Expenses	\$80,947

Your membership and donations make our work possible. Thank you!

