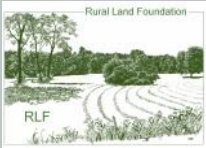


# 2020 Annual Report

## Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

Photo by Bryn Gingrich



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

### About Us

The LLCT protects and stewards deeded conservation land, conservation restrictions, and trail easements on public and private land. The organization seeks to connect the community to the land through membership, volunteer opportunities, and events.

The RLF conserves land through smart development and creative land planning. RLF then donates the land to LLCT to hold in trust, or deeds land to public agencies, such as the Town of Lincoln.

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Printed September 2021.

### LLCT/RLF Staff

**Geoff McGean,**  
Executive Director

**Bryn Gingrich,**  
Outreach Director

**Sara Lupkas,**  
Stewardship Director

**Jane Layton,**  
Stewardship Coordinator

## Pollinator Action Plan Launch!

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) launched a new initiative at the beginning of 2020. Entitled *Lincoln's Pollinator Action Plan: Planting the Way Toward Biodiversity and Climate Change Resilience*, the plan lays out a roadmap for the enhancement of existing pollinator habitat and tools for creating new pollinator spaces throughout town. The project focuses on supporting wild, native pollinators, many of which are keystone species in the local ecosystem.

The initiative launched in January with a presentation by **Dr. Robert Gegear**, a professor at UMass Dartmouth. His lecture, *The Plant-People-Pollinator Connection*, covered the evolutionary history between plants and their pollinators and highlighted the importance of native pollinators for biodiversity and food security. As part of the Action Plan, Dr. Gegear will be surveying bumblebee populations at several locations in Lincoln for the next three years to evaluate the effectiveness of planting efforts towards supporting wild pollinators.



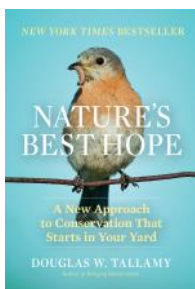
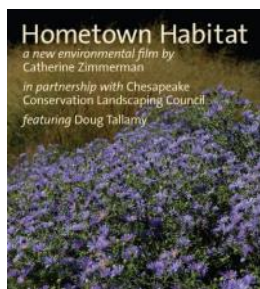
Above: Photo by Norman Levey of *Bombus vagans* on *Penstemon digitalis*.

Left to Right: Dr. Gegear and Evan Abramson speak at Bemis Hall in January and March respectively.

In March, LLCT held our second lecture of the year featuring **Evan Abramson**, a landscape designer and principle of LandscapeInteractions. Abramson's presentation entitled *Designing Biodiversity* centered around landscape plans for a pollinator garden at the Birches School. Abramson also offered a tantalizing preview of the forthcoming Pollinator Action Plan, including planting lists and management tips.



# Pollinator Action Plan



To complement the larger Pollinator Initiative programs, LLCT also offered a winter film screening of *Hometown Habitat*, directed by Catherine Zimmerman, and a virtual book discussion of *Nature's Best Hope*, written by Dr. Douglas Tallamy. Both programs highlighted local “habitat heroes” and the case for a “homegrown national park” comprised of backyard habitat. Special thanks to the Lincoln Library for helping provide additional book copies for participants.

## *Plant Sale...*

Putting words into action, LLCT offered a plant sale for the first time in the spring and summer of 2020. LLCT members had the opportunity to purchase wholesale-priced “plant kits”. Despite the ongoing pandemic, LLCT staff and volunteers provided contactless pick-up to more than 100 participants. In total, more than 2,000 native, pollinator-friendly plants were distributed to members in Lincoln and surrounding towns.



*Left:* LLCT staff prep plant orders in May for a contactless pick up. *Center top and bottom:* LLCT staff stand in the Smith School parking lot at the plant sale “drive thru”. Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department who generously allowed LLCT to store plants overnight. *Right top and middle:* LLCT held a second plant pick up in July at Lincoln Station. Swamp Milkweed, one of the plants available in July, looks healthy and ready to be planted!

## *...and planting!*

LLCT also purchased plants for conservation land. Some were destined for a new garden at Lincoln Station while others were added to the People for Pollinators (PFP) Meadow near the Lincoln Public Schools. At the PFP Meadow, LLCT also prepped a new area for pollinator friendly plants provided by Dr. Gegear. This “Beecology Test Plot” will be monitored by Dr. Gegear throughout the summer.



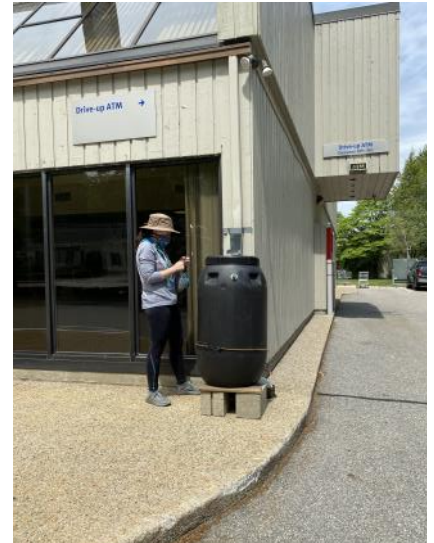
*Left:* Sara Lupkas cuts sod for the test plot. *Right:* The newly planted area features more than 40 plants, including Bebb's Willow, Carolina Rose, and Obedient Plant. Thank you to **Jim Henderson** for delivering water to the site and filling the empty rain barrels!



# Pollinator Action Plan

## *A New Garden*

In May and July LLCT added pollinator plants to a new garden at Lincoln Station. This site will serve as a demonstration space for the Pollinator Action Plan, and LLCT plans to expand the garden next year. A rain barrel installed at the corner of the building will collect and store water throughout the summer.



## *Workshops and Observations*

In August Dr. Gegear led an in-person workshop at the PFP Meadow for LLCT staff and volunteers. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, LLCT was unable to offer a public workshop this summer. Attendees were encouraged to contribute bumblebee sightings to the *Beecology Project*, a web application that collects community science observations for Dr. Gegear's research.

(left): Participants listen to Dr. Gegear at the PFP Meadow. (right) A bumblebee captured for closer observation is held up to the camera. The bumblebees were released after everyone had a chance to look!



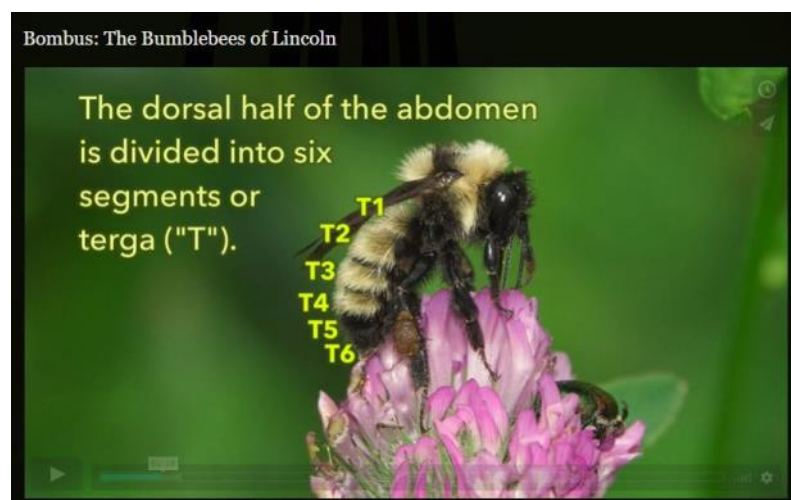


# Pollinator Action Plan

## *A Closer Look*

Towards the end of the summer, **Norman Levey**, a local expert naturalist produced a stunning virtual bumblebee ID workshop. The video featured close up footage of the bumblebees found in Lincoln and was annotated with helpful tips and definitions.

The video is available on Norm's *The Natural World* Blog and is linked to the LLCT website.



## *Pollinator Hero: Jane Gruba-Chevalier*

LLCT sends warm wishes to Jane Gruba-Chevalier, former Outreach Director and later Special Projects Coordinator for the LLCT. During her tenure at LLCT, Jane threw her passion and enthusiasm into LLCT's Outreach work, including Programming, Membership, and of course Pollinators! Jane's leadership was integral to the launch of the Pollinator Action Plan.

Jane joined LLCT in 2016 after helping with the establishment of the PFP Meadow. She remains active with the LLCT in a volunteer capacity. As of July 2021, Jane started a new position as the Executive Director of the Concord Land Conservation Trust. Congratulations Jane!

*Pictured here:* In 2020 Jane coordinated a pollinator planting day (and ongoing maintenance!) at Birches School following the designs outlined in the Lincoln Pollinator Action Plan. Dozens of Birches School families and local volunteers helped plant hundreds of plugs in summer 2020.



# Land Protection

## *A Growing Mosaic*

**Paul and Ann Kaplan** of South Great Road generously added four acres of pond edge habitat and agricultural field to existing conservation land along Farrar Pond, off of South Great Road. The Kaplans already owned two Conservation-Restricted parcels with a combined area of three acres. In 2020 they purchased a four-acre lot adjacent to those two parcels, demolished the existing house, and placed a new Conservation Restriction (CR) on all three parcels that uses the latest “model language” recommended by the State. The existing trail has been shifted toward the newly conserved parcel providing more privacy and lovely scenic views.

## *Watersheds and Climate Change*

New Lincoln residents **Lisa and Joseph Gruber** placed a CR on two acres of their property on Old County Road this past year. Their generosity has helped protect another section of the Cambridge Reservoir’s watershed, contributing towards improved water quality and stormwater management. Additionally, the CR maintains scenic vistas along Old County Road. What a great model for land conservation in Lincoln!

## *Partnerships*

In 2020, Mass Audubon was gifted 85 acres of land along Old Sudbury Road, south of Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. The land was already protected by a CR, however an entity cannot hold both the title and the CR for a parcel. That’s why LLCT stepped in and offered to take over the stewardship of the CR and the responsibility to monitor the land regularly to

ensure the conservation values remain intact. The Carroll School played a key role in this conservation deal and will continue to have access to the parcel for their outdoor educational needs. The public can access the parcel through the trails off of Old Sudbury Road. Thanks to **Buzz Constable, LLCT President**, for helping to facilitate this project.



A split-rail fence guides trail users along the edge of the newly conserved land. Farrar Pond can be seen behind a field of wildflowers.



The two acre Conservation Restriction on Old County Road abuts existing conservation land by the Cambridge Reservoir



# Stewardship & Land Management

Stewardship and Land Management is a critical part of LLCT's annual work. **Sara Lupkas**, Stewardship Director, and **Jane Layton**, Stewardship Coordinator, monitor each of LLCT's Conservation Restrictions (CRs) every year. They document any changes to the land, such as invasive plant encroachment, and ensure that the conservation values of the land are being protected. The monitoring visit is also an opportunity for landowners to meet Jane and Sara and ask questions.

## *Summer Intern*

**Ella Houlihan** started in June 2020 as LLCT's summer intern. She assisted with all of LLCT's stewardship projects including trail maintenance (clearing downed trees and trimming encroaching vegetation), invasive plant management, and pollinator plantings.

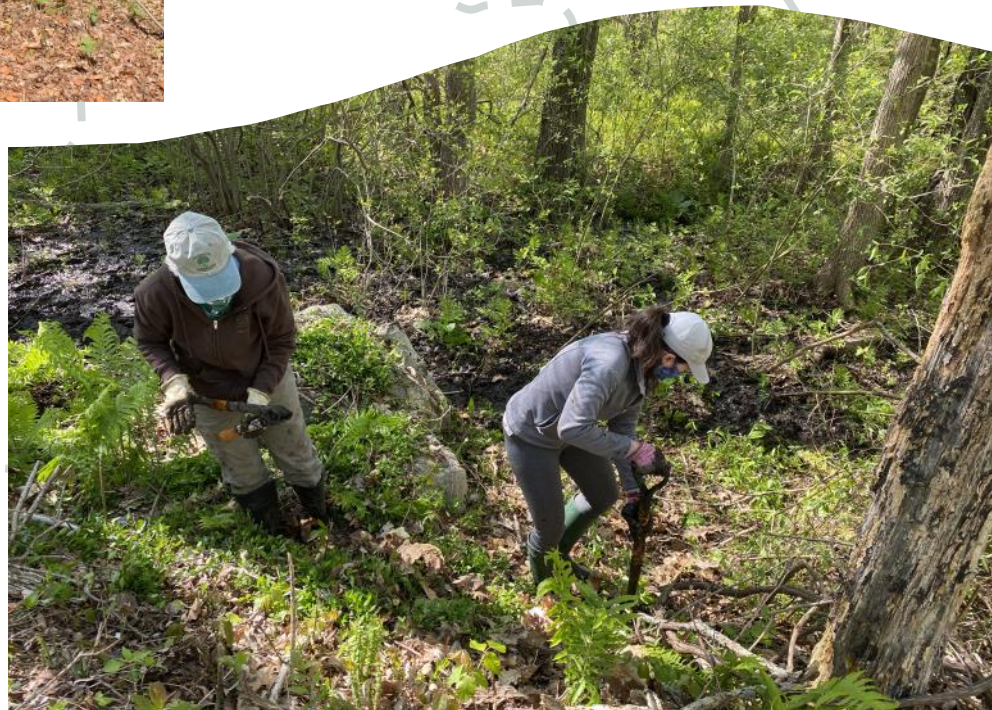
Many thanks to the community who responded to COVID-19 trail guidelines with grace and flexibility! We saw unprecedented trail use in 2020 and are grateful to all who were careful to consider the needs of other trail users and trail workers like Ella.



## *Trails and Invasives*

Before and after! LLCT's Stewardship Team removed Japanese Knotweed from a trail near Beaver Pond. This is just one example of the invasive plant management that takes place during the summer.

Jane and Sara pull lesser celandine, an invasive plant, from an area along Trapelo Road. Throughout the summer they identify and tackle high priority locations for invasive plant management, including patches of buckthorn, bittersweet, garlic mustard, and wall lettuce.





# Stewardship & Land Management

## *Fighting with Fire*

Sara holds a flame weeder, an experimental tool for invasive vegetation management. She and Jane used the weeder to remove a patch of buckthorn in Donaldson Field over the summer. LLCT hopes that the weeder will prove to be an effective solution for managing invasive plants.



## *Bluebirds and Young Conservationists*

In winter 2020, Sara and Jane organized and led a workshop for the 1st grade girl scout troop. The girls built four new bluebird nesting boxes with the support of their troop leaders. Special thanks to **Heather Ring** and **Diana Jong**, as well as other parents who helped with the prep work and assembly.

Jane and **Patti Cable** later installed the new boxes at Chapman Pasture, a field on Tower Road, and in a clearing at the Twin Pond Conservation Area. Patti is an LLCT volunteer who is a dedicated nest box monitor. In 2020 she monitored ten boxes for LLCT. Before the season, she cleans each nest box. Then she visits each box several times a week and makes a note of what birds are in or around the box. In 2020 she documented twelve Eastern Bluebird and seven Tree Swallow fledglings.





# Educational Outreach

The LLCT community gathered in January for a screening of **River Blue**, a documentary uncovering the environmental toll of the fast fashion industry. In the early spring, a group joined **John Calabria**, a local naturalist for LLCT and COA's popular noticing walks. After these programs and LLCT's spring pollinator lectures, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and LLCT pivoted to virtual programming for the remainder of the year.



## *LLCT on YouTube*

Beginning in April, **Bryn Gingrich** met (at a distance!) with local expert birders **Gwyn Loud**, LLCT Trustee and **Nancy Hammond**, to film a series of “backyard birding” videos as an alternative to LLCT's popular Spring Birding Walks. On film, Gwyn and Nancy gave tours of their backyard bird feeding arrays, and viewers enjoyed close up views of spring migrants and steady locals. Some stars included the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, the American Goldfinches, and a surprise fox sighting!

Later in the spring, **Patti Cable** participated in a video describing LLCT's nest box monitoring program and walked viewers through a typical monitoring visit. All the videos are available on YouTube and can be accessed through LLCT's website.

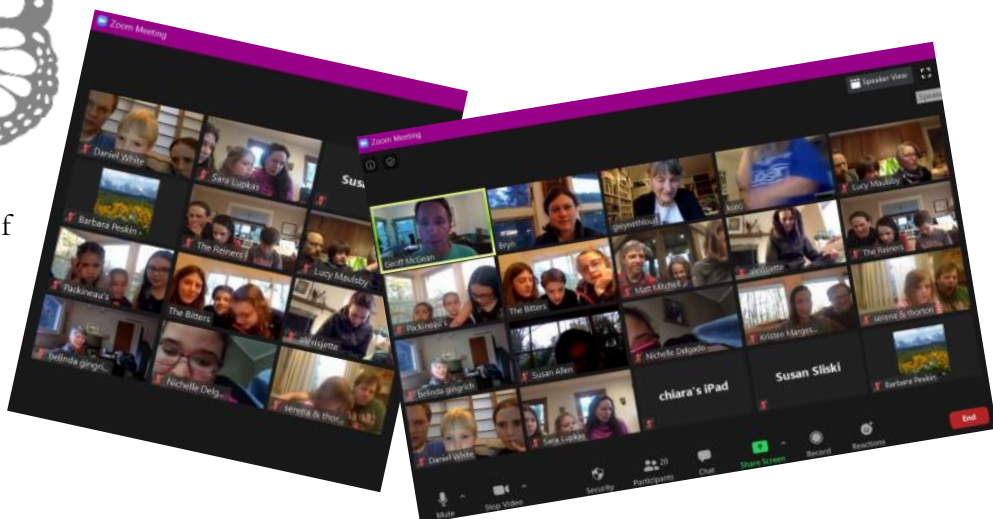


*Left:* Gwyn Loud in her backyard narrating a birding video. *Right:* Patti Cable monitors a nest box in Chapman Pasture.



## *Bingo Family Fun*

Throughout the summer, LLCT held a series of family-friendly virtual bingo games. With themes such as birds, pollinators, and wildflowers, participants learned about Lincoln's flora and fauna while having fun competing for some conservation prizes!

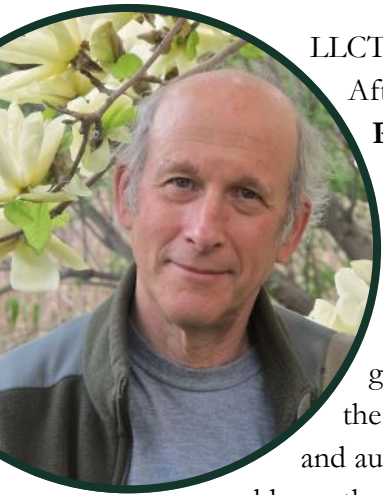




# Educational Outreach

## Zooming with LLCT

In August **Dr. Martha Gach**, Conservation Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary gave a lively zoom program all about monarch butterflies. Participants learned about the butterfly's life cycle and migrations.



LLCT held its Annual Meeting at the end of October.

After a short business meeting, **Professor Richard**

**Primack**, author of *Walden Warming*, signed on to the Zoom and spoke about his work documenting climate change and local ecology. He uses historical data to compare the timings of leaf senescence, bird migrations, and more from Thoreau's era to ours.

In December, LLCT held two fireside chats with local experts. **Gwyn Loud** and **Ron McAdow** gave a lovely overview of bird feeding, with a particular focus on late fall and early winter tips. On the winter solstice, naturalist **John Calabria** spoke to families about animals in winter. With photos and audio, he shared observations and awe at the range of adaptations that see local wildlife through the cold months.



Throughout the year, **Gwyn Loud** continued to publish her monthly wildlife column, which was shared online via the LLCT e-newsletter.

The 2021 Open Spaces Calendar was published in late summer. A special thanks to all the local photographers who contributed to the calendar and **Lindsay Clemens** for designing the publication.



# 8th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K

With overwhelming support from the community, including our sponsors, LLCT held a modified Scarecrow Classic 5K.

**250 people** registered for the in-person race, filling every available spot! Participants were assigned a start time to maintain small group sizes.



**30 volunteers** kept the day running smoothly! Helpers directed traffic at the drive-thru packet-pick up, walked runners to the start line, congratulated participants, handed out donuts, and kept the race course in tip-top shape. Special thanks to Emma Coates and Stacy Carter of the Town Conservation Department, Ruth Montero, Dan Pereira, Annie Calhoun, Roshan Kharbanda, photographers Corey Nimmer and Jocelyn Finlay, Bill Jackson, and LLCT Staff and Trustees and their families.



**40 sponsors** supported the Race despite a challenging year for businesses. Banners and signs at Lincoln Station and along the race course greeted participants.

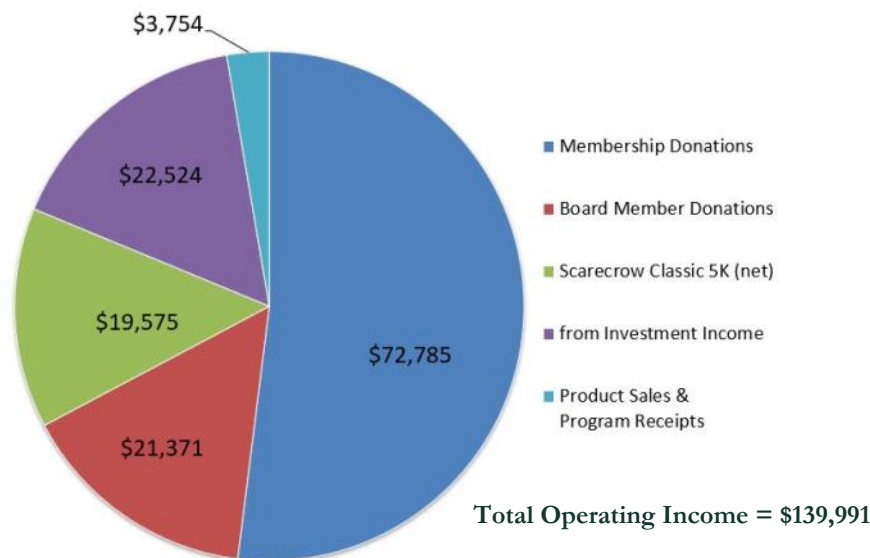


More than **150 people** participated virtually, submitting their times and photos to LLCT! A special shout out to The Commons in Lincoln, who sponsored the Scarecrow Classic and organized a group of runners to participate virtually.

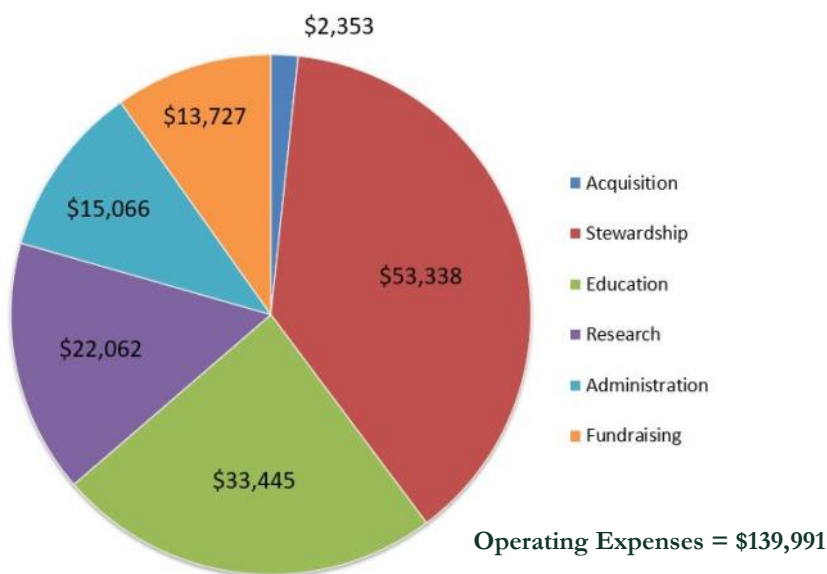


# 2020 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

## 2020 LLCT Operating Income



## 2020 LLCT Operating Expenses



## 2020 Membership

### *Total Number of Members*

338

### *Leadership Level (\$1000+)*

25

### *Friend (\$500-999)*

28

### *Sustaining (\$250-499)*

44

### *Supporting (\$100-249)*

121

### *Family (\$75-99)*

22

### *Individual (\$35-74)*

98



*Thank you for  
your continued  
support!*



# Lincoln Station

## *Movies and Music with the Community*

In collaboration with **Lincoln Parks and Recreation**, the Rural Land Foundation (RLF) hosted two drive-in movie nights at Lincoln Station. Met with enthusiastic support from the Town, Jurassic Park was screened in June and Twister was shown later in July. Movie goers could purchase dinner and snacks from **Real**, which were delivered via roller skating volunteers! Thanks to **Dan Pereira, David Sequeira, Laurie Dumont, Bill Jackson, and Carol Kendrick** for making these fun events possible.



During July and August, **Real** hosted two nights of outdoor dining and live-music featuring the wonderful sounds of the **Kat Chapman Band**. Diners enjoyed great food and entertainment as the restaurant turned towards take-out and outdoor dining during the pandemic.

## *Shop Local*

A warm thank you to the community for their support of local businesses at Lincoln Station. Retailers did a great job adapting to the times, offering virtual shopping, online orders and pick up, special senior hours, and more. Revenue from the Mall at Lincoln Station supports RLF's land acquisition work, so by shopping local you are supporting small, family-owned businesses *and* conservation in Lincoln. *Thank you!*



*Above:* Cars park at Lincoln Station to watch Twister. A Kat Chapman promotional photo from Real's live-music nights.

*Left:* Real customers social distance while they wait for their dinner orders to be prepared. *Right:* Donelan's employees implement social distancing and masking recommendations.

## 2020 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen, *Vice-Chair*

Michelle Barnes, *Chair*

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Gwyneth Loud

Bob Mason

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Andrew Stevenson

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