

Press Release

From: Town Council President Keith Macksoud and District 4 Councilman Jim Jahnz

Re: Town of Lincoln acquires 48 acre Open Space Purchase

Town Council President Keith Macksoud and District 4 Council Vice-President Jim Jahnz are pleased to announce that the town has successfully acquired the 48 acre Jergensen property on Albion Road which will remain preserved as public open space.

In anticipation of this purchase, the Town of Lincoln Planning Department applied for an Open Space Grant from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The proposal was endorsed due to the environmental, wildlife, and wetland tributaries that this purchase would preserve. In addition, this property abutted town's Handy Pond Preserve creating a contiguous 264 acre preserve.

The town's grant application was approved and a \$400,000 matching grant was awarded to acquire this property. A Resolution to purchase the property was put forth by the Lincoln Town Council to authorizing up to \$600,000 dollars of town restricted funds combined with the \$400,000 dollar DEM grant not to exceed \$1,000,000 dollars at the 2015 Financial Town Meeting (FTM), and was approved by the voters.

Negotiations to acquire this property were conducted by Council President Macksoud and Vice President Jim Jahnz due to the recusal of Town Administrator Almond to avoid any appearance of conflict or personal interest. President Macksoud states, "That after several months of vigorous and skillful negotiations led by Councilman Jahnz, we were able to successfully acquire the property for a total of \$840,000 dollars inclusive of the \$400,000 DEM grant, or a \$440,000 total expenditure from surplus funds restricted for these purposes."

Macksoud further states that; "In addition to acquiring significant open space at no added expense to taxpayers, this purchase brings Lincoln's total preservation of open and recreational lands to just over 3000 acres or 25% of the town's total land mass. This acquisition brings the town closer to successfully realizing the 1974 Comprehensive Plan goal of preserving 30% of the town as open space."

With full support and input from the entire Town Council, Councilmen Macksoud and Jahnz were proud to lead this purchase to a positive conclusion and would like to emphasize that; "Both the Town Council and Town Administrator always strive to proceed in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers they serve. The responsible preservation of open spaces and enhancement of recreation areas continue to make Lincoln one of the most desired communities to live, work, and raise a family while preserving the value to homeowners and businesses alike."