



Citizens for Lexington Conservation

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Kate Fricker, editor

February, 2015

Eileen Entin, president

CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

CLC's Annual Meeting is on April 2.

Please join us for our annual meeting on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 pm. Our featured speaker, Joan Walsh, will enlighten us on "The State of the Birds of Massachusetts: Two Views"

In her presentation, she will discuss the results of Mass Audubon's Breeding Bird Atlas 2 and State of the Birds 2 projects, and examine what the data tell us about bird conservation statewide. Then she will sharpen the focus to look more closely at Middlesex County and the opportunities we have for preserving our birdlife.

Joan Walsh is Director of Bird Monitoring at Mass Audubon, and the Coordinator of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2. Her interests are in the interaction between landscapes and bird communities, and in bird breeding behavior.

The annual meeting will be held in the large lecture room at Cary Memorial Library. Refreshments will be served. In addition to our featured presentation, we will introduce several new and exciting CLC initiatives.



Photo Quiz: Who made these holes?

Citizens for Lexington Conservation devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to statements from candidates for town offices in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively in the coming election. All candidates were sent the following letter: (not all responded)

Dear Candidate,

Citizens for Lexington Conservation annually invites candidates for public office in the Town of Lexington to address a topic related to conservation and the environment that is of concern to our members. Candidates' responses will be included in our annual Candidates' Forum newsletter that will be published during February. This issue of our newsletter will be sent to you and over 300 other Lexington families. It will also be available at the Cary Memorial Library and on the CLC web site, <http://www.clclex.org>.

CLC Candidate Question, 2015

CLC has chosen to focus on two warrant articles for this year's candidate question. Both are related to energy issues and their impact on global warming.

The first article would authorize the Town to enter into a Community Choice electricity aggregation program that would pool the buying power of local residents and small businesses, and choose a competitive supplier with the goal of choosing an environmentally cleaner and cheaper source of electricity. This article is being submitted to Town Meeting by the Board of Selectmen at the recommendation of the Sustainable Lexington Committee.

The second article is a citizens article being proposed by the Global Warming Action Coalition that would have Town Meeting approve a nonbinding resolution for the Town to take a stand on fossil fuel divestment. This article would urge the Town to take certain steps to reduce the Town's investments in the oil, gas and coal industry, and to recommend fossil fuel divestments to the State Retirement Board.

Warrant article numbers had not been assigned at the time of distribution of this question to candidates. Final warrant article numbers will be posted to the CLC web site as soon as they are available.

CLC's question to all candidates for elective office is; what position will you be taking on both warrant articles? Please include a brief explanation as to the justification for your position. Further information on both articles may be found on the CLC web site at: <http://www.clclex.org>.

Please respond to the question using no more than one half page. E-mail replies are preferred, but typewritten and even legible handwritten ones will be accepted. Please put your name, precinct number, telephone number, email address and the position you are seeking at the top of your statement. A copy of the topic you are addressing will be printed in the newsletter, so you do not need to repeat it in your response. To be included in our newsletter, your statement must reach me at one of the addresses given below no later than Tuesday, February 10, 2015. If you use email, I will send a return acknowledgment, so you will know that your response was received.

Sincerely,

Kate Fricker, Editor CLC Newsletter
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Additional information that was made available to the candidates can be viewed at the CLC web site: <http://www.clclex.org>.

CLC does not endorse any candidate. Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 2.

2015 CLC dues are payable now. The status of your dues payment can be found on the address label of snail-mailed newsletters, or near the top of the e-mail announcing this issue.

If you wish to update your membership or join CLC, you can use the form below and send a check made out to CLC, Inc., or you can use the credit card/PayPal link on our website, <http://www.clclex.org>

NAME

ADDRESS

E-Mail

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

☐ Go Green. Check here if you would like to have your newsletter in color with live links, using a download link from an email, instead of the black-and-white paper edition.

Membership fees support our volunteer organization. CLC is a registered 501(c)3 organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.

Suggested membership levels:

☐ \$20 (Twig)
☐ \$50 (Branch)
☐ \$100 (Tree)
☐ \$ (Other)

Mail to: CLC Inc., P.O. Box 292
Lexington, MA 02420-0003

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

Candidate for Selectman

Peter Kelley
peterckelley@gmail.com

I will be supporting Article 36, to establish a community choice electricity aggregation program. However, I am skeptical of what the bottom line savings may be if we create two entities to supply power but leave only one in control of distribution. In Lexington's case that would be NStar. However, I am open to the opportunity to create a competitive market for choice both on price and the "green value" of the raw electricity product.

I will not support Article 44, seeking the divestment of fossil fuel investments by the Town or

State. The interest to maximize value on investments should not exclude companies in any lawful business. To suggest not investing in companies that supply products we all depend on is inappropriate. If individuals wish to not see such companies profit they can stop using their products.

Candidate for Moderator

Deborah J. Brown
617-512-7901 campbrown@gmail.com

As Moderator, I do not generally take positions on matters before Town Meeting. My neutrality helps ensure that Town Meeting participants can feel confident that I will manage the proceedings fairly and without bias.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge incumbent Town Meeting members, candidates, and interested citizens to take advantage of the

many resources available to help prepare for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting and the two Special Town Meetings. These include the Town website (lexingtonma.gov), the Schools website (lps.lexingtonma.org), and the Town Meeting Members Association website (lexingtonmma.org). And of course, the Moderator is available to assist anyone who wishes to participate. Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email (contact information above) with any questions about meeting procedure.

There are more than sixty articles planned for these upcoming sessions, so advance preparation is critically important to help us run an efficient and effective meeting.

Candidate for Planning Board

Richard L. Canale

781-861-0287 richard.canale@gmail.com

1. I will vote to support the Article to authorize the Town to enter into a Community Choice electricity aggregation program. This seems to only have upsides with no discernable downside. Giving residents a choice in choosing an environmentally cleaner and cheaper source of electricity is a small but important step toward climate sustainability. Many residents would like to choose a competitive retail electricity supplier now, but it is difficult for individuals to sort through and evaluate this complex system. Having the Town authorize a broker who can look out for Lexington's interests and provide wise choices is highly warranted.

2. I enthusiastically expect to vote to support the Article to pass a resolution relating to climate change by divesting specified funds from holdings in coal, oil and natural gas companies. As a non-binding resolution, it will send a strong message to the cited decision-makers that Lexington is serious about global warming and fossil fuel threats. I only hope the resolution isn't watered down by scare tactics that claim that the proposal will compromise the funds managers' fiduciary duty. It has been shown over the years that funds dedicated to "social" responsibility have fared equitably with funds that have no

specified restrictions. As an example, my University's 403B program offered a CREF Social Choice fund in the 1970s. Putting equal amounts over the years into four respected CREF funds has resulted in the "limited" Social Choice fund having a current value of 12 % more than the other three fund composite. I will urge Town Meeting to pass a strong resolution.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Precinct 1

Judith L. Zabin

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If elected, I am inclined to support these warrant articles. I appreciate CLC publicizing the important energy issues implicit in these articles.

Precinct 2

There were no replies from Pct. 2 candidates.

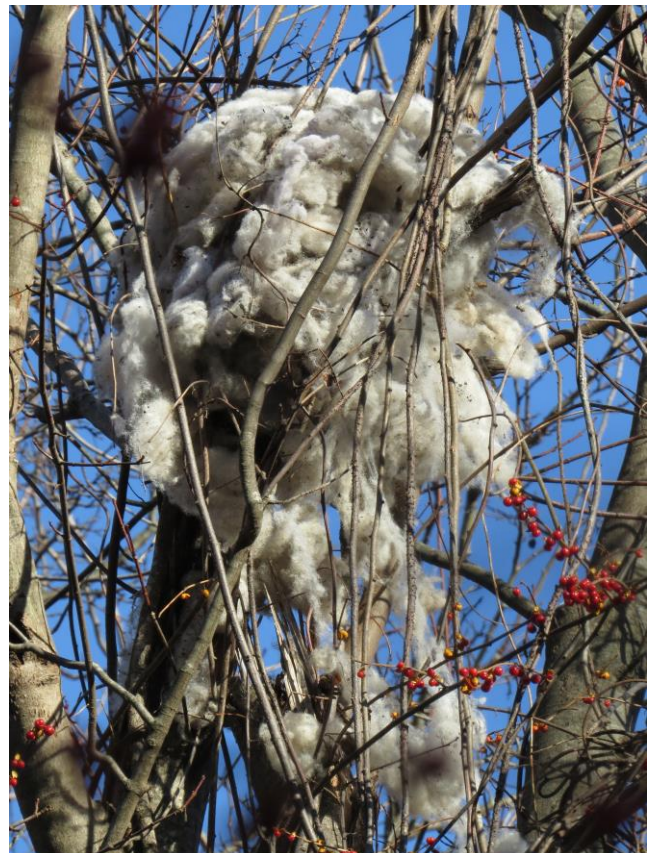


Photo Quiz: Who made this cozy nest?

Precinct 3

Beth J. Masterman

617-775-8958 bmasterman@me.com

I will be voting in favor of the two warrant articles related to energy issues targeting human impact on climate change. It will take time to change energy consumption habits and we should seize every opportunity to do so while ensuring transparent consideration of the trade-offs along the way.

Community Choice – In 1997 I was general counsel to a MA State Senator and assisted in the drafting and passage of The Act to Restructure the Electric Utilities. At that time, we believed that upon passage, MA consumers would drive down the cost of electricity by being able to exercise choice of power generators. Also, consumers would be able to purchase predominantly clean power (which often includes natural gas and nuclear) or green power (solar, wind, geothermal, sometimes hydro). In practice, only commercial customers were quickly able to secure the benefits of cheaper power because of economies of scale. Few if any consumers voluntarily purchased green power because of the relative high cost. Municipal aggregation was deemed the most efficient and cost effective way to enable residential customers to benefit from bulk purchase of power and that opportunity has finally arrived in Lexington. Since 1997, there has been a proliferation of clean and green energy sources, so it may be possible today to choose from predominantly cleaner and green sources of power generation at a lower or competitive cost. Upon passage of this warrant article, Lexington residents should always be able to find out what is the mix of power generation sources and whether we will pay more, the same, or less for the mixture that our aggregator recommends based upon our community's environmental values.

Fossil Fuel Divestment – This is a symbolic vote that would send the message to coal, oil, and gas companies that Lexington MA expects those companies to exercise great responsibility for the planet and not only for their stockholders.

On this issue, there is a split in public opinion along the lines of divestment versus engagement: On the one hand, by staying invested, environmental advocates have a platform to engage directly with companies and pressure them to invest in greener sources of power or to develop technologies to reduce carbon emissions. On the other hand, divestment is a political protest that could grow into a movement that would impact the bottom line. If Lexington MA chooses to divest and to ask the State PRIT to divest, it is important to also consider whether they would be able to meet their fiduciary duties to meet financial commitments to retirees. I am not certain whether five years is enough to balance these considerations, but I do support the resolution.

Robert Rotberg

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- 1 - I am wholly in favor of Community Choice electrical aggregation in order to mitigate global warming and improve Lexington's environmental responsibility.
- 2 – I would vote in favor of divesting from fossil fuel investments at the Town and Retirement Board levels. What I am not sure about is how many and how valuable those investments are.

Margaret Storch

781-863-1872 margaretstorch@yahoo.com

I share CLC's commitment to protecting the environment and taking measures to prevent further global warming. I would be in general support of each of these warrant articles.

The first article is immediately compelling since it offers residents and small businesses an opportunity to reduce electricity bills. The example of large commercial consumers who save through using competitive suppliers, and of similar towns who have already taken this step, would give small households in Lexington a strong incentive to participate.

I would strongly support the second article, as an important step towards limiting global warm-

ing and protecting the health of the Lexington community through reducing greenhouse gases. I anticipate this article might be less widely accepted in the community than the first, since some individuals and businesses might reject it. However, as it would be non-binding, its passage would have a beneficial effect, since substantial numbers of Lexingtonians would act upon it.

Precinct 4

There were no replies from Pct. 4 candidates.



Precinct 5

Elaine Dratch

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I am in favor of a Community Choice electricity aggregation program. The average citizen does not have the ability to research all of the suppliers who solicit new electricity contracts. The Selectmen should either appoint a consultant, or enlist volunteers (possibly from the Sustainable Lexington Committee).

They would have the expertise to choose a supplier who could offer less expensive electricity with a lower environmental impact. Anything which the town can do to produce real results in our use of fossil fuels, would benefit our citizens and reduce climate change. Increased competition may even encourage NStar to examine their sources, and also reduce their dependence on harmful fuels. (And, possibly comply with their "pledge" to remove some of their double poles).

I am leaning against the Fossil Fuel Divestment article. In the Northeast, fuel options are limited, and reducing their use through practical changes in habits (such as using public transportation, biking, walking, carpooling, better insulation, etc.), would have more impact. Recent studies have shown that funds without energy-sector stocks underperform by about 0.7 percent. We cannot jeopardize the town's (or state's) economic investments and stock returns, with a meaningless gesture.

Sam Silverman

Smpr111@verizon.net 781-861-0368

As always, these positions are subject to change depending on the debate in Town Meeting.

Community Choice Electricity Aggregation Program:

This proposal presents a positive approach to the problem of climatic change, and I support it, with the caveat that my actual vote depends on the debate in Town Meeting. Using the Town's buying power to make available an environmentally cleaner and cheaper source of electricity makes sense to me.

Divestment of the Town's investment in the oil, gas and coal industry:

I believe that this is a negative approach to the problem of reversing climate change. There will remain plenty of investors to buy these stocks, so nothing much, except feeling-good will be achieved. Furthermore this method opens itself to abuse by small groups with their own political agenda, as has happened in the past. The appeal is made on feel-good grounds to people

who have not examined the facts of an issue, nor are likely to do so. Since the proposal, in the end, accomplishes nothing, and legitimates the abuse for political ends, I oppose such proposals, even for worthy goals.

Precinct 6

Bebe Fallick

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1. Electricity aggregation

I will support this article as it provides an opportunity to acquire cleaner and cheaper electricity, using the purchasing power of pooled consumers. The optimum situation is to obtain power that is both cleaner and cheaper. However, if a choice arises between cleaner or cheaper, cleaner should be given priority.

2. Divestment

I am recusing myself on this article as I am a retired Town of Lexington employee.

I do believe the Boards have a fiduciary responsibility to provide for the retirees through prudent investment practices.

Jane Pagett

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I believe that we are well beyond the point, as a Town and as citizens of our planet, when we can afford to overlook the impact of energy policies on our global environment. As we critically examine how current energy policies result in disproportionate corporate profits, high utilities user costs, pollution, and weather disruption, it's a good time to pave the way for new ideas such as electricity aggregation and cleaner electricity providers, both to be scrutinized with the same critical eye as earlier methods. Further, I look forward to hearing pro and con arguments against all aspects of energy financing, including fossil fuel divestment. I try to avoid taking positions prior to Town Meeting. Instead of arriving with a decision, I try to listen without bias and decide based on what I hear from colleagues, experts and officials. I believe that I owe that to my constituents.

Edith Sandy

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I will enthusiastically support Article 36, to enter into a Community Choice electricity aggregation program, which would obtain proposals on behalf of residents and businesses for cheaper and cleaner electric power. This program has several very desirable benefits: it saves money for the Town's residents by providing competitive, often lower, electricity rates; it gives the Town more control over where our electricity comes from, resulting in cleaner energy; it spares individual users from having to "shop" for cleaner and cheaper electricity themselves and gives them the benefit of the Town's greater buying power; it preserves the delivery, maintenance, billing, and service functions of NSTAR; and it maintains consumer choice for those residents and businesses who wish to continue using NSTAR or some other supplier. This program is a valuable step in reducing the carbon footprint of our electricity consumption, while at the same time potentially saving money.

I expect to vote in favor of Article 44 (GWAC's Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment) but I think there are many more important and more effective things that we can do, other than this symbolic gesture, to be responsive to environmental concerns. Town Meeting should insist on high energy-efficiency standards for all municipal and school construction; we should encourage the Selectmen to adopt a plan for putting a ground-based solar array at Hartwell Avenue; we should cheer and further encourage installation of solar panels on municipal and school buildings; we should stop over-heating Town buildings; we should try to discourage the wastefulness of teardowns with appropriate zoning regulation.

PRECINCT 7

Philip Hamilton

pHamilton@fac.nesl.edu

First article:

I expect to vote in favor of the article authorizing the Town to enter into a Community Choice electricity aggregation program.

Second article:

I am open to hearing arguments in favor of this article, but at this point I would not support it. I think that divestment is appropriate when the target corporation is engaging in or supporting a policy that is morally wrong, as was the case with corporations doing business with apartheid South Africa, or is currently the case with firms dealing in the “blood diamonds” of West Africa. I am not persuaded that the activities of the entire oil, gas and coal industries rise to that level. I fully support efforts to achieve a reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels, but I doubt that the divestment envisioned by the warrant article, even if it were realizable, would accomplish that purpose. And it would remove from shareholders’ meetings voices and votes that might actually convince the company to take steps to reduce the contribution of its products to global warming, e.g. by promoting and adopting technologies that capture carbon emissions. The fact that the resolution is nonbinding does not make it more persuasive to me.

Stacey.Hamilton

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staceyhamilton@earthlink.net

I am in support of both articles related to energy issues. Community Choice is an important program that Lexington should be taking advantage of both to help citizens with energy costs and also to reduce the impact of power consumption on the environment. It is one of the better options available to us as a community, short of having our own municipal power plant. I appreciate the GWAC submitting the nonbinding resolution on fossil fuel divestment to spur discussion about ways that the Town can diversify and further engage in socially responsible investing.

Raul Marques-Pascual

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617 283 6282

As a Steward of Lexington Conservation Land, Co-founder of Lexington Farmers Market and a member of the Lexington Farming Committee, I am very interested in the way our living is affecting the environment and what we can do to minimize our impact. I am looking forward to learning more about these two articles because at the

present time I have very limited information on them. My instinct is to support them but I will not commit until it is time to vote.

PRECINCT 8

Larry Belvin

781-674-0246 larry.belvin@verizon.net

Regarding the electricity aggregation program:I plan to support the motion under this article. Choosing an environmentally cleaner source of electricity is a moral responsibility of ours. Whether a cleaner electricity source will be cheaper remains to be seen. But being cheaper isn't essential. I have been participating in the NSTAR 100% Green program since shortly after it was offered in 2008.

This program is being eliminated on 7/1/15. Although NSTAR Green increased my electric bill, it was worth it to do something to encourage the use of more renewable energy sources.

Regarding the nonbinding resolution about fossil fuel divestment: I am not yet convinced that such a resolution will be effective or is appropriate. The divestment campaign from companies that did business in South Africa in the 1980s was a responsible and effective campaign as apartheid was morally repugnant. But oil, gas, and coal are not in that category. Further, there are not currently alternative energy sources in sufficient quantity / availability to replace oil, gas, and coal. While I support renewable energy (see answer to the previous question), I don't yet support fossil fuel divestment as an effective means to achieving the use of more renewable energy sources.

Ingrid Helen Klimoff

home tel. 781-862-1112, iklimoff@rcn.com,

1. Article 36, Community Choice (Electricity) Aggregation. Yes, I support this article. Several years ago I worked with a subcommittee looking at electricity usage in the town, the Electric Utility ad hoc Committee. Purchasing electricity from another supplier than NStar was one topic we looked at, so am familiar with the concept. Yes, I would like to save money on my electricity

bill, and for the town as well to save money on its electricity bills. Big companies do it, universities do it. It is a smart thing to do, and it is time to do it. I applaud the work of the Sustainable Lexington Committee.

2. Article 44. Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment. Yes, I support the article, submitted by the Global Warming Action Coalition. My 2 reasons for support: 1. education, 2. ethics.

From: gofossilfree.org/what-is-fossil-fuel divestment/

Divestment is the opposite of an investment – it simply means getting rid of stocks, bonds, or investment funds that are unethical or morally ambiguous.

When you invest your money, you might buy stocks, bonds, or other investments that generate income for you. Universities (and colleges in the US), religious organizations, retirement funds, and other institutions put billions in these same kinds of investments to generate income to help them run. Fossil fuel investments are a risk for both investors and the planet, so we're calling on institutions to divest from these companies.

There have been a handful of successful divestment campaigns in recent history, including those targeting violence in Darfur, tobacco advertising, and others, but the largest and most impactful one came to a head around the issue of South African Apartheid. By the mid-1980s, 155 campuses – including some of the most famous in the country – had divested from companies doing business in South Africa. 26 state governments, 22 counties, and 90 cities, including some of the nation's biggest, took their money from multinationals that did business in the country. The South African divestment campaign helped break the back of the Apartheid government and usher in an era of democracy and equality.

Fossil fuel divestment takes the fossil fuel industry to task for its culpability in the climate crisis. By naming this industry's singularly destructive influence — and by highlighting the moral dimensions of climate change — we hope that the fossil fuel divestment movement can help break the hold that the fossil fuel industry has on our economy and our governments.

(Go Fossil Free is a project of 350.org, which was co-founded by Bill McKibben, a former Lexington resident.)

Jim Osten

781-861-9079

ostenj@rcn.com

1. I am in favor of lower cost cleaner electricity and will support Community Choice electricity aggregation.

2. I am in favor of having fund managers asked to create funds that exclude fossil fuel industries and recommending that investment choices favor non fossil fuel choices. However, I do not support formal restrictions on our local investment board which already operates under very difficult constraints including overcoming a significant underfunding of future pensions.

Weidong Wang

781-863-5790

Weidong@yahoo.com

For the first article on Community Choice: I am in favor of this article. I believe in going with an environmentally cleaner and cheaper source of electricity, with solar being the top choice. Since there are less than one third of residential houses that are qualified to have solar panels put on their roofs, a large number of residents who want to go solar are left out. With Community Choice and pooling the buying power of local residents, it is possible to get a solar farm built somewhere else to have cleaner and cheaper electricity for these residents. I am on the Lexington Housing Authority and we at LHA have already decided to go solar, with a solar farm being built for LHA.

For the second article on the stand on fossil fuel divestment: I am also in favor of this article for the same reason that I am in favor of the first, that we should find ways to use other environmental cleaner and cheaper source of energy, than the dependency on the oil, gas and coal industry. Things will not happen over night, but we should set a goal and move towards the goal.

Answers to Photo Quizzes:

p. 1. Pileated Woodpeckers tend to make large, oblong holes with square corners.

p. 3. Mice enjoy an abandoned bird nest lined with cattail fuzz.

PRECINCT 9

Scott Bokun

781-860-9791

sbokun@verizon.net

My position on both of these warrant articles is a strong heartfelt YES. My daughter is the co-president of GWAC at Lexington High School so I am well-informed about global warming and its seriousness. It is time to act before we can no longer influence the tipping point. Every bit of action counts, from using public transportation to forming a Community Choice electricity aggregation program and divesting from the fossil fuel industry. This is exactly the activism that Bill McKibben at 350.org talks about and I'm 100% on board with this approach. I'm hopeful that Lexington is also ready for this approach.

Richard Canale

Find him under **Candidate for Planning Board**



Hikers ready to walk at Khatadin Woods

CLC Introduces Winter Snowshoe Walks

Traditionally CLC has held walks in the spring and fall, with an occasional summer walk. More recently, we have added a few winter walks. This winter season, for the first time CLC scheduled three snowshoe walks, led by Keith Ohmart, on conservation or open space parcels in and adjacent to Lexington. The first walk was held in early January at Katahdin Woods, but because there was little or no snow, it turned into a hike. By the time of the second walk, held in

late January at Burlington's Landlocked Forest, there was plenty of snow. The third walk was to have been in mid-February at Lot 1 of the DCR's Beaver Brook North Reservation, but there was so much snow that parking was impossible and driving dangerous. The hearty folks who participated in the first two walks were enthusiastic and ready to try again.



Snowshoe Walk at Burlington's Land-Lock Forest



Photo Credits:

- p. 1. Carolyn Levi
- p. 4. Keith Ohmart
- p. 6. Kate Fricker
- p. 10. Jane Warren