



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Minutes

1 **Present:** Marge Badois, Chair; Gene Harrington, Vice Chair; Deb Lievens, Member; Roger Fillio, Member;
2 Mike Noone, Member; Mike Byerly, Member; Mike Speltz, Alternate Member; Julie Christenson-Collins,
3 Alternate Member; and Casey Wolfe, Recording Secretary

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5 **Absent:** Jamie Mantini, Member; and Margaret Harrington, Alternate Member

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7 **Also present:** Kevin Smith, Town Manager

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9 Chair Badois called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She appointed Julie Christenson-Collins to vote on
10 the behalf of Jamie Mantini.

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12 **New Business**

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14 **State Easement Purchase:** K Smith informed the Commission about an offer the Town received from the
15 NHDOT for a one-acre piece of land that abuts I-93. This piece is currently a part of a ten-acre parcel that
16 the DOT would need to subdivide. The DOT would use additional land from this parcel for a utility and
17 drainage easement. The State has offered \$600 for the piece. Londonderry's appraiser has appraised the
18 whole ten-acre parcel for \$24,205 and the one-acre piece for \$2,600. Following the advice of the Town's
19 attorney, K Smith made a counter-over to the State of \$1,000 to avoid going to Court. The State
20 accepted that offer.

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22 K Smith is here this evening to get a recommendation from the Conservation Commission (and later the
23 Planning Board) before it goes to Public Hearing with Town Council. There was a short discussion about
24 the State putting an easement on land that they will own. M Speltz felt that the town should get at least
25 \$2000 for the land. G Harrington mentioned that the State would have to pay for the subdivision and
26 going through the application process through the Planning Board. There was a discussion about
27 whether or not this piece is wet. M Speltz said that this piece could need mitigation since it is over
28 10,000 square feet. M Badois pointed out that this piece is really an acre and a half including the
29 easement.

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31 G Harrington made a motion to recommend the sale of the parcel and easement to DOT subject to
32 increasing the sale to \$2,000, that the DOT will pick up the costs of the sub division process, and limiting
33 the parcel to the use of a detention pond and mitigation. M Byerly seconded that motion. The motion
34 passed 7-0-0.

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36 **Old Business**

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38 **Stewardship Position:** K Smith reported that the Council still thinks that a position is needed; however,
39 they are less inclined to use the general fund for this. Taxes have gone up this year because of the



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40 school system and they will probably go up again next year. For now, the Council is trying to limit what
41 goes on the Town Warrant. It is recommended that the Commission either uses funds from Open Space
42 or just holds off for now.

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44 **Water Extraction:** M Badois asked K Smith if the water extraction ordinance will be permanent. K Smith
45 felt that it makes sense to go forward with a process in place if someone wants to extract water. R Fillio
46 likes the idea of having a permitting or licensing process. K Smith wants to have the Town Council revisit
47 this in early March.

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49 **Monitoring:** M Noone explained that three sites have been monitored including West Road Fields,
50 Home Depot Off Site, and West Road Conservation Area. Home depot had an encroachment and West
51 Road had two encroachments. There is time lined up to do the Mack property this Saturday. M Noone
52 reported that 77% of all conservation easement acres have been monitored within the past 15 months,
53 so a lot has been covered. There was a brief discussion about the frequency of monitoring.

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55 **Stewardship Position (continued):** M Noone likes the idea of hiring a college student to do monitoring
56 and trail maintenance. D Lievens suggested that the Planning Department might have access to grants to
57 fund this. M Badois mentioned that the Stewardship Network offers training for people doing
58 monitoring. R Fillio suggested looking for someone who is retired who is willing to volunteer to do the
59 monitoring. A good plan for now could be to have two classes of volunteers – one for trail maintenance
60 and one for monitoring.

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62 **Newsletter & Public Walk:** M Byerly reported that the walk went well. Including the three
63 Commissioners that came, there were 16 people total – several of these people were new. There was a
64 discussion about getting more people on the email list. M Byerly also described a clean-up that took
65 place on Little Cohas.

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67 **Correspondence**

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69 **Londonderry Trailways:** M Badois asked the Commission for members who were interested in working
70 with this group to help plan and establish a joint effort to maintain the trails in town.

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72 **New Members:** One person has applied to be a Conservation Commission member. There was a brief
73 discussion about terms. M Speltz felt that there should be a job description for the Conservation
74 Commission so that anyone interested has an idea of what they are getting into. M Speltz volunteered
75 to write this description. It would be nice to have this person interviewed by the Conservation
76 Commission first before they are appointed by the Council.

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78 **DRC**



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Colonial Drive Subdivision: The Commission took a look at the subdivision plans. Blanding’s turtles have been found on this site. M Speltz felt that this needed to be reviewed by a wetlands scientist and that all measures should be taken so that the habitat does not get impacted. M Speltz also noticed that drainage runs right through where the second house is. The hydrology should get confirmed before the second house is allowed. The Commission also recommends that a wetland biologist is on site when equipment is operating.

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After some corrections, D Lievens made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. M Noone seconded that motion. The motion passed 4 -0-3 with G Harrington, J Christenson-Collins, and M Byerly abstaining.

Other Business

North School: NHACC received a grant from the Horne Family Foundation to be used for a conservation and school partnership program. An application for North School to work with the CC on a joint project under this grant has been approved.

Workshop: M Badois advertised a two-day workshop in Portsmouth for winter wetland plant species identification.

Adjournment: G Harrington made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 PM and R Fillio seconded the motion. The motion was granted, 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Recording Secretary