



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Minutes

1 Present: Deb Lievens; Gene Harrington; Mike Considine; Paul Nickerson; Truda Bloom; Ben
2 LaBrecque; Marge Badois; and Mike Speltz, non-voting alternate.

3
4 Also present: Kellie Walsh, potential Commissioner; and Andrew Campbell, potential
5 volunteer

6
7 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 PM in the Moose Hill Council
8 Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road. (The meeting location was changed from the Sunnycrest
9 Conference Room due to the number of residents and members of the public in attendance and
10 since an SAU meeting scheduled for that conference room had been cancelled. A note was
11 posted on the door to Sunnycrest about the relocation for any members of the public who
12 arrived late).

13
14 August 13, 2013 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the**
15 **August 13, 2013 public session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved,**
16 **5-0-2 with D. Lievens and M. Considine abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

17 **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2013**
18 **non-public session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-2**
19 **with D. Lievens and M. Considine abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

20
21 New England Cottontail- D. Lievens stated that she received comment from Emma Carcagno of
22 the UNH Cooperative Extension about the recent timber cut performed in the Musquash
23 Conservation Area as part of a habitat creation project for the endangered NE Cottontail Rabbit.
24 A gentleman stated that during the cut, his hunting stand was removed and he has inquired as
25 to its whereabouts. No one associated with the project (UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Fish
26 and Game, the Town Forester) have any knowledge of such a tree stand. While there is most
27 likely no prohibition against tree stands in the Musquash (hunting is an allowed activity), P.
28 Nickerson noted that someone interested in placing one on another's property should ask the
29 landowner for permission to do so. D. Lievens added that this would be true for both private
30 as well as public property.

31
32 Town Forest (Invasive Species)- At the August 13 meeting, the Commission granted the Town
33 Sexton Kent Allen permission to perform cleanup work around the new trail that extends from
34 the Town Common, though the Town Forest and southward onto Mack's orchard. The
35 Commission also agreed that the Town Forester should be consulted, particularly since he may
36 have developed a management plan for the selective cut done several years ago. K. Allen had
37 asked D. Lievens about performing further cleanup along the side of the forest facing
38 Mammoth Road. Since the Commission had several concerns and the Town Forester has not
39 yet been contacted for his input (see August 13, 2013 minutes), Commissioners agreed that
40 feedback should be obtained first before making any further decisions. Consensus was also
41 reached on August 13 that the licensed invasive species specialist who previously performed



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Minutes

42 removal of the Bittersweet should be hired again to apply the necessary herbicide and perform
43 permanent removal of the plant roots. D. Lievens said she would contact both the Town
44 Forester and the invasive species specialist.

45

46 Invasive plant species (Phragmites)- D. Lievens reported that she will be contacting
47 entomologist Michael Morrison of Municipal Pest Management Services, Inc. for a status
48 update regarding the removal of Phragmites from Town owned property on map 6 lot 113.

49

50 Baiting in the Musquash- As stewards of the Musquash Conservation Area, the Conservation
51 Commission was recently asked for permission to bait there during deer hunting season via a
52 permit to be obtained from the State Fish and Game Department. At the August 13 meeting,
53 the Commission had decided that since under State law, the hunter could only apply for the
54 State permit after April 1 in a given year, the issue could be revisited before April 1 of 2014,
55 given the fact that there was no perception at this point of any potential ecological or safety
56 issues. When provided with this information, the hunter reported back that per NH Fish and
57 Game regulations, the April 1 restriction (and subsequent August 1 deadline) only applies to
58 baiting permits on "State or State managed lands." He would therefore still be able to obtain a
59 baiting permit for archery season commencing this September. In addition, the hunter
60 submitted a revised map showing the proposed baiting location after performing a recent site
61 walk and realizing his first choice was located where a recent timber cut was performed to
62 create New England Cottontail habitat (see Attachment #1). Commissioners discussed the
63 ethical aspects of baiting as well as the demonstrated ability of the hunter to fulfill the State
64 and Town regulations. M. Speltz noted that although the hunter has the right to ask
65 permission, the Town still has the right to not accept the request, while M. Considine pointed
66 out that hunting in general is allowed in the Musquash. Holding a public hearing on the
67 concept of baiting in the Musquash was discussed in order to gain the input of residents and
68 develop a policy. It was also debated that since the hunter has complied with applicable laws,
69 he should not be held up by a possible public hearing on the overall issue when archery season
70 starts in September. Following further discussion, **P. Nickerson made a motion to accept the
71 individual's application and allow him to hunt in the Musquash as he has outlined. M.
72 Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 4-2-1 with T. Bloom and B. LaBrecque in
73 opposition and D. Lievens abstaining.**

74

75 Public Hearing- The Londonderry Conservation Commission entered into a scheduled public
76 hearing at approximately 8PM regarding the purchase of +/- 12 acres on tax map and lot 6-2-1
77 (119 High Range Road) owned by David A. Hicks and George P. Hicks, et al, for approximately
78 \$60,000. The public hearing was closed at approximately 8:15 and **the Commission voted
79 7-0-0 to recommend to the Town Council that the Town proceed with the purchase of +/- 12
80 acres on parcel 6-2-1 (119 High Range Road), owned by David A. Hicks and George P. Hicks, et
81 al, for approximately \$60,000 (see separate Public Hearing minutes).**

82



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Minutes

83 Tanager Landing trail- Residents of Tanager Way were present as they had been at the August
84 13, 2013 meeting to seek input from the Commission about activities they say are related to
85 the Musquash trailhead located on that street (see August 13, 2013 minutes for details of
86 those concerns). M. Considine explained that there is a plan in place to add two sign posts
87 on the grass in front of the trailhead to denote the limits of the Town owned property and
88 instruct visitors to park on the grass. Enough room would be created for approximately seven
89 to eight cars to park 'nose-in'. He stated the intent is to create awareness for those using
90 the trail while not making the parking area obvious for those passing through the area.

91 D. Lievens entertained public comment. Troy Brown, 3 Whippoorwill Drive,
92 explained that he attended this meeting after learning there was concern amongst neighbors
93 about the trailhead. He relayed his experience that he uses the trail and has not witnessed
94 any more than three cars parking there at a given time. He disagreed with other residents
95 suggesting that those who park on Tanager Way to use the trail are causing a hazard since
96 cars are regularly parked on other sections of Tanager Way. He noted that the trail is a use
97 consistent with the Town's Master Plan and said it poses no issues with regard to safety or
98 litter. He requested, however, that a parking area not be created, nor signage added as that
99 could encourage overuse of the trail and actually create issues of trash and destruction of
100 property. Kathleen Gagnon, 28 Tanager Way, stated that she was told by the developer of
101 the subdivision when purchasing her lot that a trail would be directly abutting that property
102 to the west. (D. Lievens noted that the creation of the trail was part of the public hearings
103 held by the Commission and subsequently the Town Council concerning the purchase of that
104 property). K. Gagnon said she has not witnessed any negative impacts caused by the trail or
105 trailhead, whether it is trash or loitering by strangers. She agreed that parking on other
106 sections of Tanager Way occurs and that unless the Town prohibits on-street parking, the use
107 of the property should not be limited by the neighbors who object to it. Kate Cutting, 32
108 Tanager, specified that her issue is with regard to the "parking lot" she heard was being
109 created at the trailhead, not the trail itself. She reiterated her concerns expressed at the
110 August 13 meeting about encouraging people from outside the neighborhood to use the spot
111 as a place to loiter, dump trash, and creating a parking hazard on the street. Parking has
112 increased as a result of the trailhead, she said, and she has seen cars parked there as early as
113 5 AM and as late as 10:30 PM. She said she has also had to have several sprinkler heads
114 replaced because of vehicles crossing over onto her property and crushing them when leaving
115 the trailhead. She stated that the aforementioned signs would help avoid a recurrence of
116 that in the future. S. Chasin, 34 Tanager Way, provided Commissioners with a list of issues
117 prior to the meeting (see Attachment #3). He said he was also not opposed to the trail itself
118 but to its location in the middle of a residential neighborhood, as well as an increase in
119 speeding vehicles, the potential to block emergency vehicles, and the exposure of the
120 neighborhood children to strangers. When he mentioned a recent situation where a
121 Londonderry fireman agreed that parking on that section of Tanager Way could inhibit access
122 by emergency vehicles, M. Speltz pointed out the Fire Department has the opportunity to
123 comment on any possible safety issues regarding any new roads in town during the Design



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Minutes

124 Review portion of the Planning Board approval process of any subdivision or site plan. D.
125 Lievens added that the town's Public Works and Engineering Department has very strict
126 guidelines for street design based on the goal of public safety. M. Considine responded to
127 each of the items in S. Chasin's email, remarking that the issues outlined are not a result to
128 the trailhead, that he visits the site regularly and like T. Brown and K. Gagnon, has not noticed
129 any safety issues. He added that he visits all Musquash trailheads on Saturday mornings and
130 removes any trash items. He stated that a picture recently taken by a neighbor living near
131 the trail and forwarded to the Commission via email was actually photographing those who
132 were participating in a trail maintenance day. Musquash trailheads, he explained are in
133 residential neighborhoods and while there is an issue with overcrowding at the Hickory Hill
134 entrance (which is being addressed), the Commission has not received comments in the 15+
135 years he has been involved. Regarding the gunfire that neighbors have heard, M. Considine
136 said it is most likely occurring at the Londonderry Rod and Gun Club since no evidence of the
137 target shooting that has recently escalated in the Musquash has been in the portion of the
138 Musquash near Tanager Way.

139 A discussion ensued about the possibility of ruts being created during fall and spring
140 mud seasons by cars parking in the area proposed and whether parking would be allowed in
141 the winter months. M. Considine stated that some additional maintenance may need to take
142 place and that a snow blower may be considered depending on the amount of snowfall this
143 winter. D. Lievens encouraged residents to email her if they notice any additional negative
144 impacts.

145 Since the Commission previously voted to install the posts and signage, she asked the
146 Commission if they believed any additional vote was needed at this time or if any change to
147 the current plan was necessary. The consensus was no further action by the Commission
148 was needed. M. Considine estimated that the posts and signs would be installed in another
149 few weeks.

150
151 Monitoring- M. Speltz recently met with T. Bloom per her request at the August 13, 2013
152 meeting to discuss her ongoing effort to organize the monitoring efforts of conserved lands in
153 town. Based on that discussion, M. Speltz asked Staff to forward her a spreadsheet designed
154 by the Town's GIS Manager that itemizes the conserved land in town and, among other things,
155 identifies their mode of conservation (easement, fee purchase, etc.). T. Bloom will continue
156 to prepare the assignment of monitoring duties to Commissioners for a future meeting.

157 D. Lievens stated that the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) will be
158 performing annual monitoring of the Ingersoll property, Sunnycrest, and Merrill properties.
159 She requested Commissioner's volunteer at the next meeting to do site walks of the Moose Hill
160 Orchard easements and the Plummer easement.

161
162 Outdoor Recreation Guide & Management Plan- M. Speltz reported that the consultant hired
163 by the Commission to create this guide and associated management plan recently briefed the
164 Town Council about the project who seemed "enthusiastic" about the update.



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Minutes

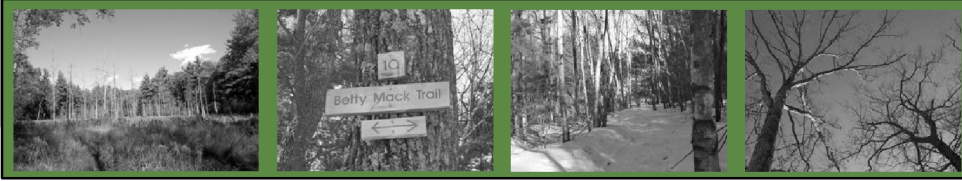
165
166 NH DES; Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology for the 2014 surface water
167 quality assessment- The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) recently sent
168 information to the Town about this assessment. M. Speltz explained that the DES classifies
169 waters by whether they are suitable for swimming, fishing, drinking, etc. and the information
170 sent to the Town spells out the criteria the State uses to make the classifications. That
171 classification could impact development plans, both private and Town-related, and can change
172 over time, which may be the reason for the letter from DES. K. Walsh, who is employed by
173 DES, confirmed that some of the criteria were recently changed.

174
175 **P. Nickerson made motion to adjourn the meeting. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion**
176 **was approved, 7-0-0.**

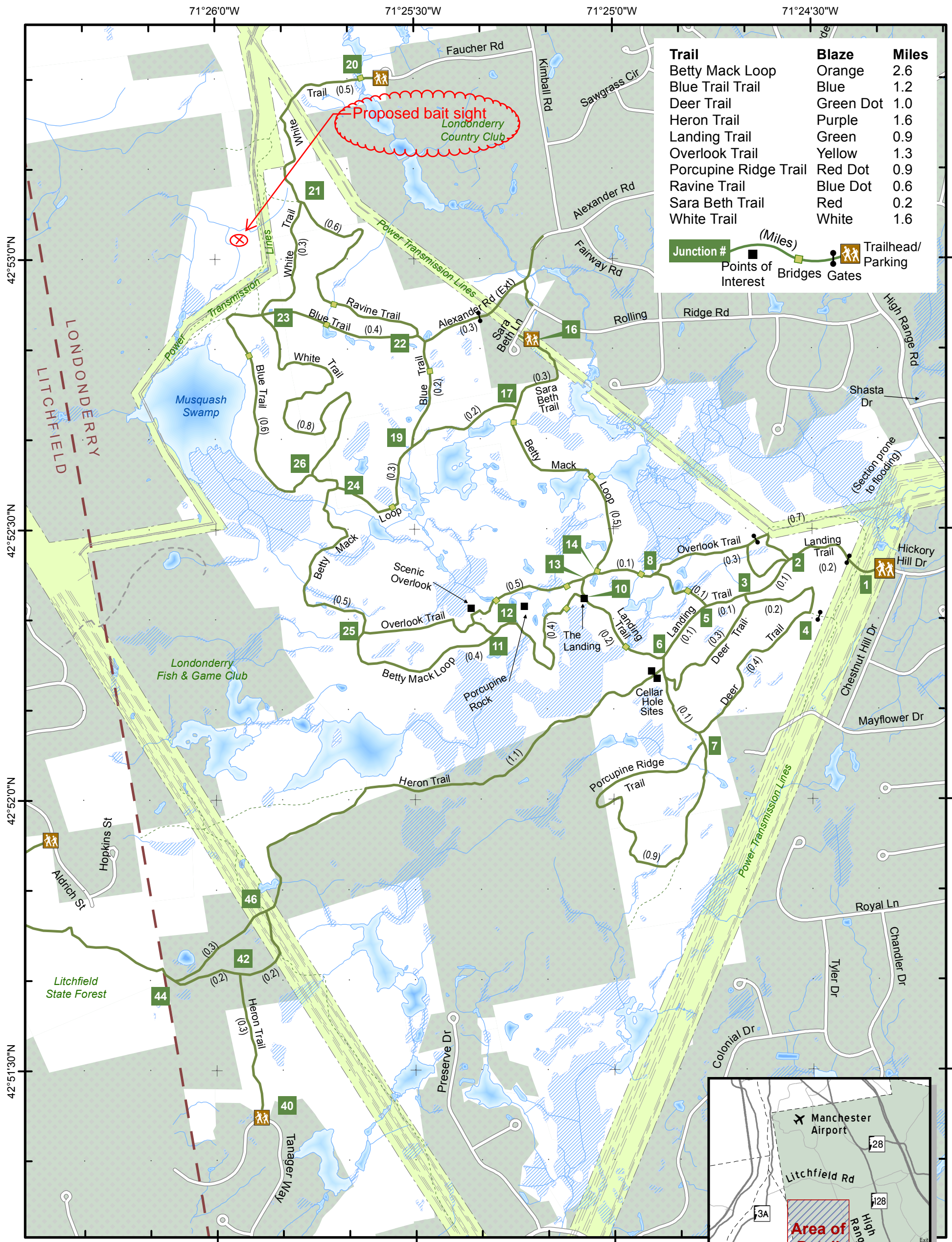
177
178 The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 PM.

179 Respectfully submitted,

181
182
183
184 Jaye Trottier
185 Associate Planner

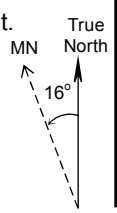
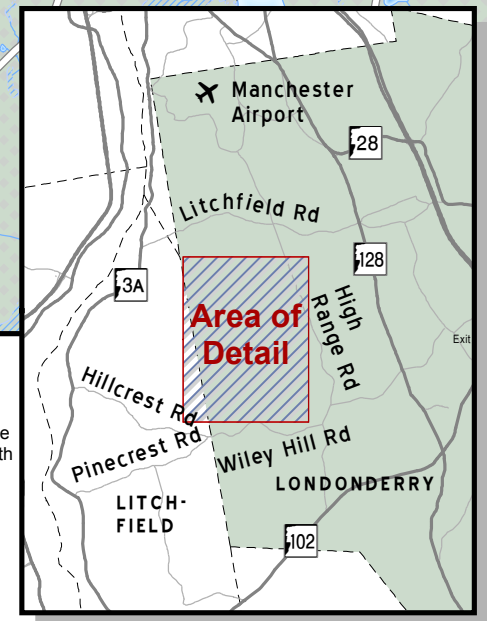


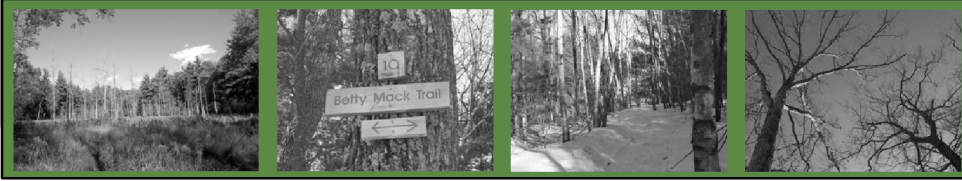
Musquash Conservation Area Londonderry, NH



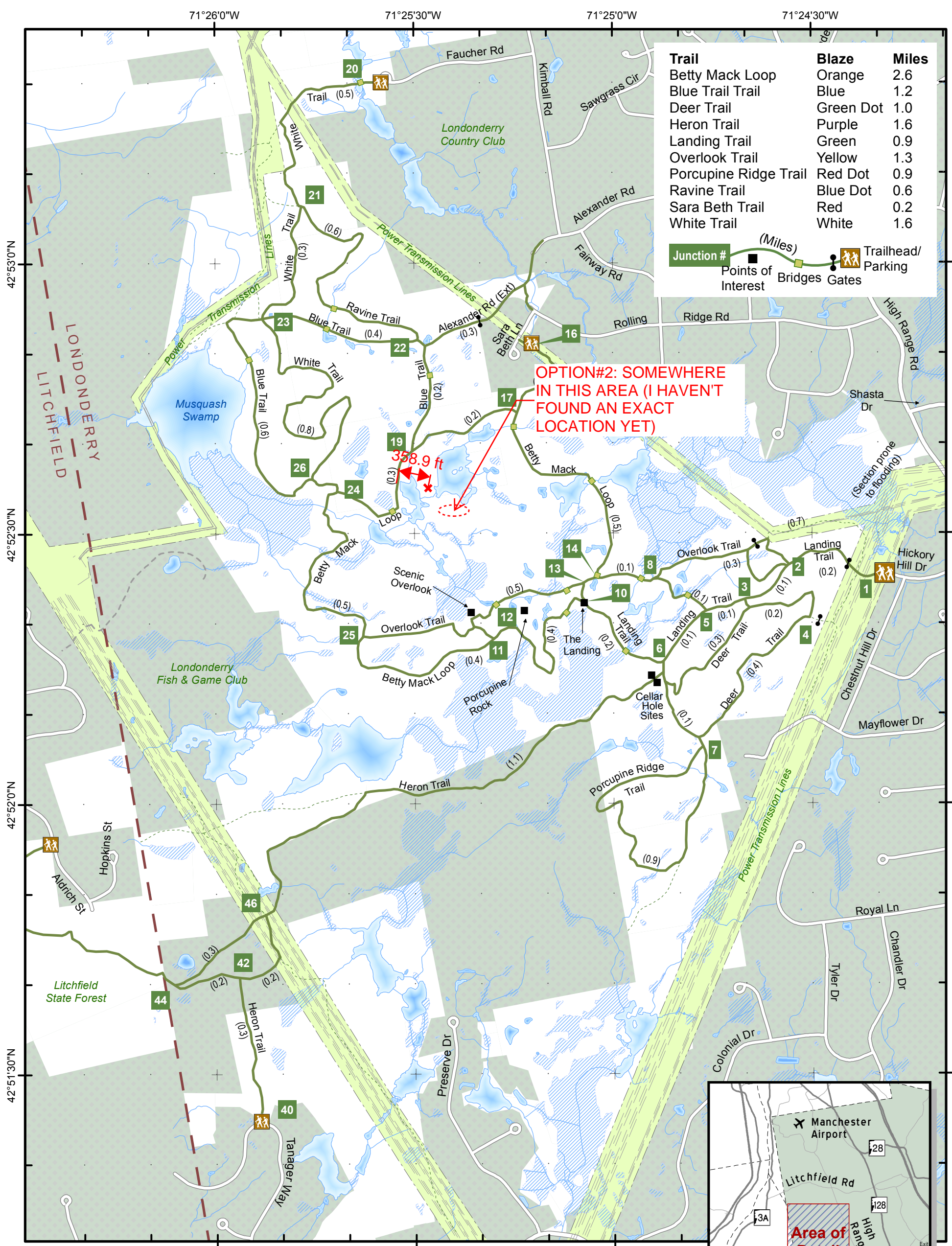
No motorized-wheeled vehicles are allowed in the Musquash Conservation Area per town ordinance. Hunting is allowed during hunting season. Wear bright orange to make yourself visible during this time. This trail map is provided as a reference and is not warranted to be accurate. Trails are current as of Fall, 2010 although conditions are subject to change due to trail work and forces of nature. Use trails at your own risk.

Map prepared by John Vogl, GIS Manager, Londonderry Community Development Dept. for Londonderry Trailways. Conditions are current as of Winter, 2011. Funding was provided by the Londonderry Conservation Commission and a generous donation from Moose Hill Orchards.



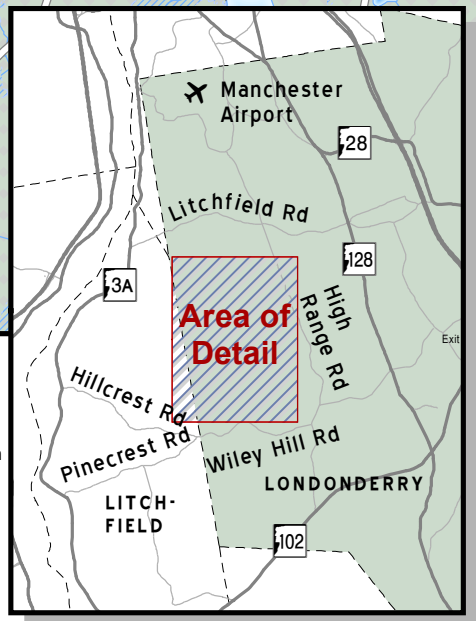


Musquash Conservation Area Londonderry, NH



No motorized-wheeled vehicles are allowed in the Musquash Conservation Area per town ordinance. Hunting is allowed during hunting season. Wear bright orange to make yourself visible during this time. This trail map is provided as a reference and is not warranted to be accurate. Trails are current as of Fall, 2010 although conditions are subject to change due to trail work and forces of nature. Use trails at your own risk.

Map prepared by John Vogl, GIS Manager, Londonderry Community Development Dept. for Londonderry Trailways. Conditions are current as of Winter, 2011. Funding was provided by the Londonderry Conservation Commission and a generous donation from Moose Hill Orchards.



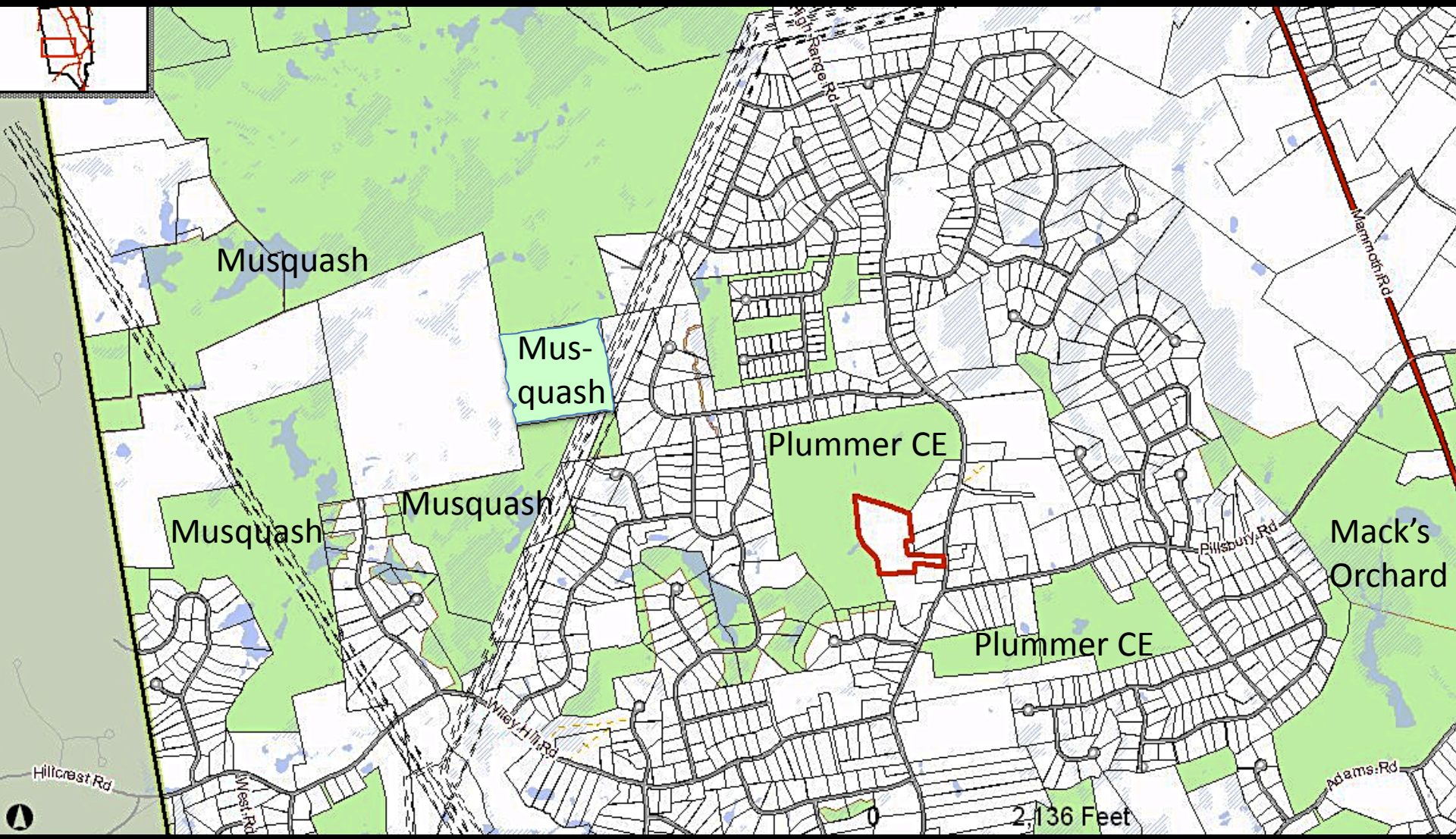
1,059.3 ft

Proposed Hicks Purchase

12+ acres on High Range Road

Purchase price: \$60,000

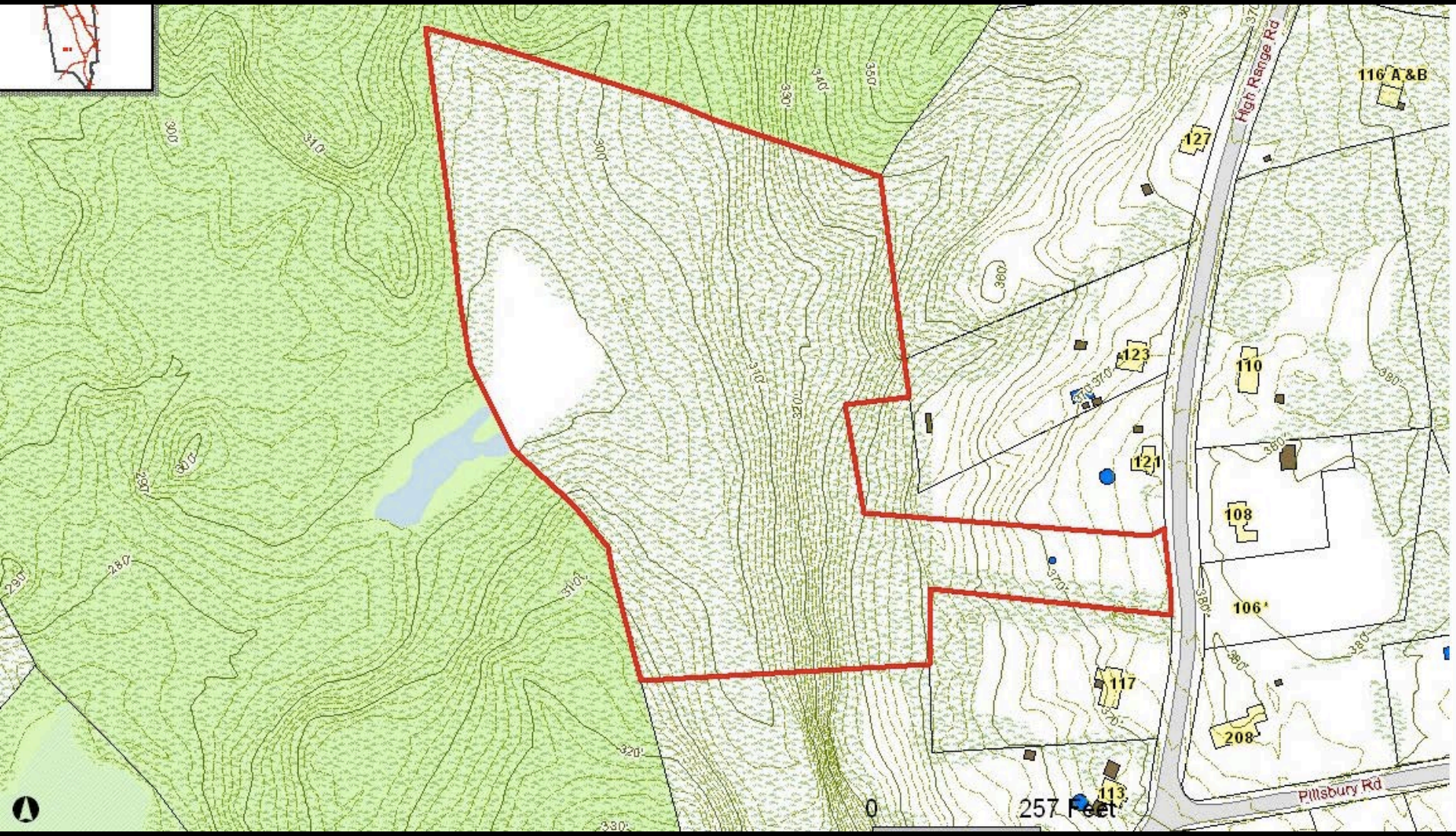
The Hicks land is surrounded by conserved land and further linked to other conserved land by protected wetlands



Aerial photo of Hicks land



Forest cover, contours, and fen type wetland



Entrance to
property,
looking from
High Range
Road



Typical condition of forest on the eastern slope (looking north)



North-south stream (looking north)



Wetland (looking north)



Snowmobile and ski trail



Entrance right
of way,
looking
toward High
Range Road



From: [Steven Chasin](#)
To: [Jaye Trottier](#)
Subject: Tanager Landing
Date: Monday, August 26, 2013 9:31:26 AM

It was asked of us to supply a list of concerns of the residents of Tanager Way. We have several concerns with the trail entrance being located in the middle of a residential area.

1. The trail has brought plenty of strangers to the neighborhood. Speeding has been an issue and the trail increases traffic on the street. There are 85 + children on the Londonderry side of Tanager Way. Our priority is our children and their safety, which the trail entrance jeopardizes.
2. Cars are parking on private property forcing homeowners to post "private property" signs. One homeowner has replaced several sprinkler heads that were destroyed by cars parking on the grass to utilize the trail. Parking on the street reduces visibility along the curve, increasing the chance of an accident. The fire dept. recently responded to an alarm activation at my home and reported that it was very difficult to navigate the curve without cars parked on the street.
3. Cars have been parked at the trail entrance late into the night. People have been observed urinating at the trail entrance and then getting back in their cars. Wood, soda cans and used condoms have been found on the trail.
4. ATVs, motorbikes and snowmobiles are frequently heard on the Heron Trail.
5. Target shooting can be heard all day and into the night. I believe you are already addressing this issue.
6. Hunters use the trail and then dress the deer next to the road. Great for kids to see.
6. Residents were never informed that the trail entrance was being established. When homes were purchased there was no mention of the future addition of a trail entrance.

These maybe trivial issues to some on the committee but we need to protect the over 100 children (Londonderry and Litchfield sides) that live on the street. We do not want a parking lot or increased advertisements because both would increase the number of strangers entering the neighborhood. I do realize that most of the people that use the trail enjoy it, keep it clean and follow the posted rules but you only need one person with bad intentions to break the sense of comfort and security. Anyone can park at the entrance without raising suspicion which is a perfect situation for a sex offender or a burglar casing houses. I am failing to understand why a trail entrance would be placed in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The other entrances are at the end of dead end streets. We would like to see the entrance relocated to a parcel of land near the power lines off of Wiley Hill Rd. That site would have better access to the main trail system as well as the opportunity to create a family site with picnic benches, parking lot etc. We are not opposed to the trail system, we are opposed to having a trail entrance in the middle of a residential area.

Steve Chasin