



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
Minutes

1 Present: Deb Lievens; Gene Harrington; Paul Nickerson; Truda Bloom; Ben LaBrecque; Marge
2 Badois; and Kellie Walsh, newly appointed non-voting alternate.

3
4 Also present: Andrew Campbell, volunteer

5
6 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

7
8 Town Forest (Invasive Species)- Town Sexton Kent Allen was present to discuss a cleanup
9 project he had recently proposed for the Town Forest (map 6 lot 97-1; see August 13 and
10 August 27, 2013 minutes). D. Lievens reported that she contacted licensed invasive species
11 specialist Prescott Towle who removed some of the Oriental Bittersweet within the forest in
12 2010. While it is too late in the year to perform additional herbicide applications, he informed
13 D. Lievens he would do a site walk and report to her afterwards. The Commission can then
14 make decisions regarding cost and the scope of the work they would like to take place. P.
15 Towle said removal of Bittersweet can be done by hand using volunteers as K. Allen suggested,
16 but said it would not be nearly as effective as the use of herbicides and therefore not an
17 efficient use of their time. Likewise, Town Forester Charlie Moreno told D. Lievens that using
18 volunteers to clear out forest debris would not be prudent due to safety reasons. When K.
19 Allen asked if the poison ivy in the forest could be removed, the Commission noted that unlike
20 Bittersweet, it is a native plant and not invasive. They suggested instead that the Boy Scouts
21 K. Allen was planning on using as volunteers create signage for the new trail that extends from
22 the Town Common southward onto Mack's orchard to identify poison ivy for those walking
23 through the forest. Regarding K. Allen's request to "clean up" the portion of the forest facing
24 Mammoth Road for aesthetic purposes, G. Harrington noted that the forest is a "natural NH
25 woodland" whose ecological function would be disrupted by such a disturbance. The purpose
26 of the forest itself, D. Lievens noted, is not for aesthetics. They suggested instead that K. Allen
27 continue to work with Londonderry Trailways President Bob Saur on clearing the path of the
28 aforementioned trail. **G. Harrington made a motion that the Conservation Commission
29 suggests that K. Allen continue his work with Londonderry Trailways on the new trail in the
30 Town Forest and work with volunteer Boy Scouts to identify poison ivy along the trail with
31 educational signage. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.** D.
32 Lievens thanked K. Allen for his efforts.

33
34 Invasive plant species (Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites)- D. Lievens reported that there
35 appears to be more Purple Loosestrife in the Flax Field on Pillsbury Road compared to this
36 time last year. She said it could be due to the fact that efforts to manually remove the plant
37 did not occur the past two summers as it had in previous years. The rare plants found there,
38 however, seem to have multiplied and are doing well. She recommended the Commission
39 reexamine their efforts to remove the Loosestrife next year.



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40 D. Lievens also updated the Commission on the effort to remove Phragmites from the
41 Town owned property on map 6 lot 113. She said the entomologist hired by the
42 Commission is close to obtaining the requisite wetlands permit. The delay has been caused
43 by a backlog at the State level. She said it is not too late in the season to perform the work.
44

45 New England Cottontail- D. Lievens said that a recent site walk revealed to her that successional
46 growth is taking shape as planned in the area of the Musquash Conservation Area recently clear
47 cut to encourage habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail species.
48

49 Hicks acquisition- At their August 27 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing regarding
50 the purchase of +/- 12 acres on tax map and lot 6-2-1 (119 High Range Road) owned by David
51 A. Hicks and George P. Hicks, et al, for approximately \$60,000. The Commission voted
52 unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that the Town proceed with the purchase.
53 Since that time, a Purchase and Sale agreement was drawn up by Town Attorney Matt Serge
54 which the Commission reviewed it at this meeting. M. Badois made two suggestions
55 regarding the language: 1) the phrase "fee interest" should be changed to "fee simple
56 interest" and 2) in order to meet the closing date stated in the document of November 29,
57 the number of days given to the buyer to notify the seller of a termination of the agreement
58 should be changed from 60 days to 30 days. (The termination would be based on the buyer's
59 conclusion that the results of any survey or inspection of the property are not satisfactory).
60 There were no objections by Commissioners to the suggested amendments and consensus
61 was reached that the proposed changes should be reviewed by the Town Attorney for his
62 approval. There were no further suggested changes. D. Lievens said the Town Council
63 would be discussing the acquisition at their September 23 meeting. If they approve, the title
64 search can then be performed. **G. Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to
65 address the suggested revisions to the Purchase and Sale Agreement to the satisfaction of
66 the Town Attorney, after which the Chair is authorized to sign the P&S and forward the
67 document to the owners for their signature and to the Town Council for their September 23
68 meeting. M. Badois seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

69 Resident Ray Breslin requested permission to review the P&S. D. Lievens said she
70 would have to confirm with the Town Attorney whether it is considered a public document at
71 this point in time.
72

73 Tanager Landing trail- Commissioner Mike Considine informed D. Lievens and G. Harrington
74 that he has ordered signage for the Tanager Landing Trailhead as discussed at the August 27
75 meeting. He also suggested purchasing approximately 24 aluminum signs that state
76 "Motorized Wheeled Vehicles are Prohibited within the Musquash Conservation Area" at an
77 estimated cost of \$480. A discussion ensued about possible vandalism to the signs and it
78 was decided to further investigate options before investing in the total amount.



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80 Monitoring- Commissioner Mike Speltz recently asked Staff to forward a spreadsheet designed
81 by the Town's GIS Manager to T. Bloom that itemizes the conserved land in town and identifies
82 their mode of conservation (easement, fee purchase, etc.). T. Bloom received the
83 spreadsheet and after additional research, is planning on assigning monitoring tasks at the next
84 meeting. D. Lievens asked Commissioners to also be prepared to volunteer at that time to
85 monitor the Moose Hill Orchard easements and the Plummer easement.

86
87 DRC- Walton Circle Condo Conversion (6 Walton Circle) Map 18 Lot 15-6; There were no
88 comments from the Commission on this subdivision plan.

89
90 August 27, 2013 minutes- It was noted that the spelling of Kellie Walsh's name was incorrect
91 in both sets of minutes from the August 27 meeting. T. Bloom also noted the word "from"
92 was missing in line 21 of the public session minutes after the word "comment."

93 **T. Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 public**
94 **session as amended. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

95 **T. Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 public**
96 **hearing as amended. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

97
98 [K. Walsh, A. Campbell, and R. Breslin left the meeting].
99

100 **G. Harrington made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of**
101 **discussing possible land acquisitions as well as the potential release of portions of non-public**
102 **minutes regarding possible land acquisitions. T. Bloom seconded.**

103
104 **Roll call vote: Aye, Paul Nickerson; Aye, Ben LaBrecque; Aye, Marge Badois; Aye, Truda**
105 **Bloom; Aye, Gene Harrington; and Aye, D. Lievens.**

106
107 **G. Harrington made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. P. Nickerson seconded. The**
108 **motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

109
110 **G. Harrington made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session indefinitely. P.**
111 **Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

112
113 Land Use Change Tax- D. Lievens reported at the May 28 meeting that the Land Use Change
114 Tax (LUCT) had generated \$126,827.20 in revenue for the Conservation Fund. At the 2012
115 Town Meeting, a citizen's petition was approved whereby 60% of any LUCT funds collected
116 beyond \$100,000 would be directed to the general fund. D. Lievens said she is still awaiting
117 confirmation from the Finance Director as to whether the \$126,827.20 figure reflects the



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118 amount before or after the transfer to the general fund. She said she would follow up with
119 the Finance Director.

120

121 **G. Harrington made motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was**
122 **approved, 6-0-0.**

123

124 The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

125

126 Respectfully submitted,

127

128

129

130 Jaye Trottier

131 Associate Planner