



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Minutes
Page 1 of 3

1 Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Paul Nickerson, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque, Mike
2 Speltz, and Marge Badois

3
4 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM and appointed M. Speltz to vote for the empty seat.
5

6 Membership- George Herrmann has resigned from the Commission, stating that due to professional and
7 personal obligations, he is no longer able to commit adequate time to the Commission. Marge Badois was
8 approved by the Town Council as an alternate member at their May 7 meeting.
9

10 Open Space Task Force letters- Letters will be mailed next month by the Commission to the owners of the
11 210 priority parcels listed in the 2010/2011 Open Space Task Force Report. They will be invited to an
12 informational meeting where their inclusion on the list will be explained, along with three options for
13 preservation of their land if they are interested. At the April 24 meeting, June 25 was selected as a
14 tentative date. **G. Harrington made a motion to hold the public meeting/workshop entitled “Your Role in
15 Londonderry’s Green Infrastructure” on Monday, June 25, 2012 in The Moose Hill Council Chambers at
16 7:00 PM. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**
17

18 Invasive plant species (Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife)- At the April 24 meeting, removal of the invasive
19 Phragmites species from the wetland on map and lot 6-113 was discussed. Hiring the requisite professional
20 with the proper aquatic license will cost approximately \$3,000. The exact amount will not be known until
21 the contractor can survey the site, which D. Lievens expects will happen soon. Since an Aquatic Resource
22 Mitigation Fund grant will not be pursued (see April 24 minutes), the Commission agreed that the work
23 could be funded via the Conservation Fund, along with the line item budget if need be. Owners of the lots
24 abutting the affected northwestern corner of the wetland will be asked if they would allow the removal
25 effort on their land as well. The contractor will be consulted to determine whether any other abutters
26 should be notified. D. Lievens suggested removing the Phragmites in front of the High School at the same
27 time. She will ask the School Superintendent whether about the possibility. She will also investigate any
28 impact made by Galerucella beetles on the invasive Purple Loosestrife found in the same wetland. The
29 beetles, which feed exclusively on Purple Loosestrife, were released there in July of last year.
30

31 National Moth Week- The first annual National Moth Week will take place the week of July 23. D. Lievens
32 offered to coordinate an event for Londonderry residents, including a slide show, during and/or after the
33 July 24 Conservation Commission meeting. The consensus was to include the event on the July 24 agenda.
34

35 Parking in the Musquash- M. Considine reported recently that more parking is needed at the entrance to
36 the Musquash Conservation Area at Hickory Hill Drive. When Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) was
37 asked several years ago about the possibility of utilizing their land that lies between the end of Hickory Hill
38 Drive and the Musquash, they asked the Commission to provide a plan of their intentions. M. Considine
39 will ask the Town’s Public Works Director what he would allow and/or recommend. M. Speltz suggested
40 performing a site visit with him.
41

42 Trail Day- M. Considine reported that approximately 18 people attended the last Trail Day in the Musquash
43 on April 14 and that several new bridges were installed.



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Minutes

Page 2 of 3

44

45 Presentation of OSTF report to Town Council - M. Speltz made a follow up presentation to the Town Council
46 at their May 7 meeting regarding the findings and recommendations of the 2011 Open Space Task Force
47 (OSTF) report. Councilor Tom Freda suggested that since 30% of the Town is currently protected and the
48 2006 OSTF report recommended that 25% of the Town be preserved as open space, the Town should
49 temporarily suspend funding of the Open Space Plan. M. Speltz noted to Commissioners that this
50 proposition does not take into account that half of that 30% is not *permanently* protected, nor that the
51 green infrastructure identified in 2011 is almost identical to what appeared in the 2006 Open Space Plan.
52 M. Speltz did not believe that the 2006 plan could have set a 25% goal, but rather that it noted biologists
53 recommend a 25-50% goal. Councilor Tom Dolan stated his preference to see development of both a
54 Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ordinance (to preserve sensitive areas while allowing higher densities
55 in other receiving zones), as well as an aquifer protection zone as an overlay district. Both would be the
56 purview of the Planning Board with ultimate approval coming from the Town Council. Concern was
57 expressed over the amount of Open Space funds expended to preserve the Ingersoll Conservation Area on
58 Bockes Road when the OSTF survey indicated it is underutilized by residents. M. Speltz explained that while
59 people may be less aware of the that area of open space, conservation of that land still benefits residents
60 and others by protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat. Overall, he stated, the Council supported
61 the concept of implementing the OSTF recommendations. He further suggested to the Council that a
62 steering committee be formed to oversee that implementation. Because he did not receiving significant
63 support of the idea, M. Speltz said he would instead compile a list of those recommendations that the
64 Conservation Commission can pursue.

65

66 Joint Negotiating Committee- M. Speltz inquired with the Town Manager before the May 7 Town Council
67 meeting whether the At-Large position for this committee will be advertised. The Town Manager replied
68 that he needs direction from the Town Council and will present the idea to them. D. Lievens will follow up
69 to determine whether the subject was addressed at the May 7 meeting.

70

71 American Chestnut presentation- G. Harrington had suggested at the February 14, 2012 meeting that
72 Wildlife Biologist Curt Laffin be asked to give a presentation on the rebirth of the American Chestnut tree.
73 D. Lievens has already talked to the Leach Library Director who is willing to hold the event there. D. Lievens
74 will give C. Laffin's contact information to Library staff.

75

76 Community Gardens- M. Speltz observed that M. Badois was asked during her interview with the Town
77 Council on May 7 if she had any specific accomplishments in mind as a Commissioner. When she suggested
78 establishing community gardens, M. Speltz said the Council was very receptive. Some of the State's best
79 soils, he noted, are on map and lot 10-41 which is the site of the proposed Woodmont Commons
80 development. He is hopeful that some kind of community agricultural component is made part of that
81 development.

82

83 Master Plan update- M. Speltz strongly urged Commissioners to attend several meetings during the
84 weeklong Planapalooza event associated with the Master Plan Comprehensive Update:

85

1. May 31, 7:00 PM; the Opening Presentation and Workshop in the High School Cafeteria. This is
86 when the "visioning exercise" takes place, where residents first establish their preferred future for



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Minutes
Page 3 of 3

87 Londonderry. Commissioners should therefore attend to ensure the protection of natural resources
88 is part of that vision.

89 2. June 2, 1:00-2:00 PM; the “Natural Resources and Open Space” meeting in the Moose Hill
90 Council Chambers. He also encouraged members to attend the “Land Use and Community Design”
91 meeting in the same location at 11:00 AM, along with the “Public Pin Up & Review” session at 6:30
92 PM where residents can gauge how well the Master Plan consultant is interpreting information
93 received from residents.

94 3. June 5, 6:30 PM; the Closing Presentation at the Lions Hall.
95

96 Wetlands Council- D. Lievens will be nominated by the Governor to the Wetlands Council on May 9. The
97 purpose of the Council in relation to the Department of Environmental Sciences (DES) is “to hear and
98 decide all appeals from department decisions...which relate to wetlands.” The Council also helps
99 streamline policies and practices of DES and oversees the disbursement of Aquatic Resource Mitigation
100 Grant funds.
101

102 New England Cottontail Habitat- Town Forester Charlie Moreno will be joined by Heidi Holman of New
103 Hampshire Fish and Game for a meeting at Town Hall at 9:00 AM on May 11 in the Sunnycrest Conference
104 Room to discuss the preservation, restoration, and creation of NE Cottontail habitat in Londonderry.
105

106 Musquash Forestry Plan- Town Forester Charlie Moreno informed D. Lievens that he is nearly finished with
107 this report.
108

109 April 10, 2012 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012 public**
110 **session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1 with T. Bloom abstaining as**
111 **she had not attended the meeting.**
112

113 April 24, 2012 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2012 public**
114 **session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 2-0-5 with M. Considine, P.**
115 **Nickerson, T. Bloom, B. LaBrecque, and M. Speltz abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**
116

117 **G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**
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119 The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.
120

121 Respectfully submitted,
122
123
124

125 Jaye Trottier
126 Secretary