



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

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

3
4 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. She appointed M. Badois fro vote for Truda Bloom and
5 M. Speltz to vote for the empty seat.

6
7 New England Cottontail Habitat- Wildlife Biologist Heidi Holman of New Hampshire Fish & Game was joined
8 by Town Forester Charlie Moreno to educate the Commission about the New England Cottontail and Early
9 Successional Habitat Project. In addition to better understanding the distribution of the endangered New
10 England Cottontails, the goal is to increase their population through land management of appropriate areas
11 to promote the dense shrubby habitat the species relies upon for shelter and food. An important portion
12 of the Cottontail's fragmented habitat in the northeast is in the Merrimack Valley. Stonyfield Farms on
13 Burton Drive is home to one of the few populations in New Hampshire. The specific goal for the state is to
14 develop 2,000 acres in order to potentially support 1,000 rabbits. The initial population would be
15 established in the new habitat through a captive breeding program currently underway.

16 C. Moreno provided Commissioners with an analysis of a proposed management area along 160
17 acres of the northeast border of the Musquash Conservation Area. Only 60+/- acres of would be converted
18 to the specific rabbit habitat and the entire management area would comprise only 6% of the Musquash.
19 These areas were selected for their proximity to power lines and/or wetlands where dense shrubbery is
20 more easily cultivated and for the relatively few hiking trails found there. (NH Fish and Game and Public
21 Service of NH already have a partnership to develop habitat in appropriate areas along power line
22 corridors). Areas cleared will need to be cut again at five-year intervals to achieve the desired vegetation.
23 Concerns were raised that the two trails within the management area would be difficult to follow after the
24 cut and that hikers may be displeased with the stark visual change. Commissioners felt that educating the
25 public about the rationale for the cutting would be an important aspect of the program and would need to
26 take place prior to any work commencing. M. Badois suggested using the habitat at Stonyfield as an
27 example of what the area will look like once the eventual successional growth takes place. Heidi Holman
28 was asked to add a public relations plan to C. Moreno's written proposal. There was also some concern
29 that cutting areas adjacent to power lines will expose them to ATV use. C. Moreno explained that those
30 areas will be buffered with brush, but it was also suggested that gating may need to be used as well. Most
31 of the project could be financed through the sale of the timber, however C. Moreno also urged the
32 Commission to apply for grant monies to ensure all management costs are fulfilled. M. Speltz pointed out
33 that there are significant federal funds available for this type of project and that the town would not likely
34 be willing to pay the costs of management for NEC habitat. The consensus was to revisit approval of the
35 proposal at the next meeting.

36
37 Merrimack Valley Greenways Project- M. Speltz, acting on behalf of the Society for the Protection of New
38 Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), asked the Commission for their input on this pilot project that seeks to "link
39 people to land with trails." The goal is to determine what natural resources are most important to
40 residents of Manchester and its five adjacent communities (as well as several State agencies and
41 organizations), then locate where those resources are in that region and ultimately link them together with
42 a trail network (see attached). Each town is being asked to relay what resources they deem the most



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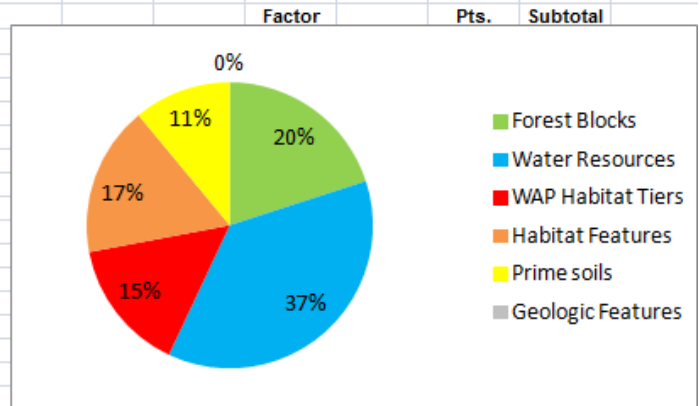
43 valuable. A consensus will then be developed through the results when they are compiled via a Delphi
 44 process. The average scores will be analyzed through GIS technology. The results of the Delphi scoring
 45 from the Commissioners and two members of the Open Space Task Force (OSTF) present were as follows:

47 **Merrimack Greenways Plan**

48 **Data Factors to be evaluated in the co-occurrence model/Delphi process**

49 (See supporting narrative and maps for more detail on resources listed below)

		Importance Value (Enter scores here)
Forest Blocks		
	Class 1: 50 - 275 acres	5
	Class 2: 275 - 750	5
	Class 3: 750 - 1,500	10
	Class 4: >1,500	10
Water Resources		
	Riparian & Shoreland Buffers	10
	Floodplains	2
	NHDES Drinking Water & Source Water Protection Areas	5
	Sand/gravel aquifers	10
	Favorable gravel well sites	10
	Wetlands (poorly + very poorly drained soils)	10
Wildlife Habitat		
WAP habitat condition tiers		
	Tier 1: Best in NH	10
	Tier 2: Best in Eco-region	5
	Tier 3: Supporting Landscape	5
Selected habitat types		
	Appalachian/Oak/Pine Forest	10
	Floodplain forest complexes > 250 acres	2
	Grasslands	5
	Marsh complexes > 250 acres	8
	Peatlands	5
	Pitch Pine	2
	Ridge & Talus Community	5
Productive Soils		
	Prime agricultural & soils of statewide importance to farming	11
Unique Geologic Features		
	Drumlins & drumlin-like features	5
	Total Points	100



73 M. Speltz thanked the Commission and OSTF members for their input and will forward the results to the
 74 members not able to attend the meeting.

76 Open Space Task Force letters/ "Your Role in Londonderry's Green Infrastructure" event-- Letters were sent
 77 recently to the owners of the 210 priority parcels listed in the 2010/2011 Open Space Task Force Report,
 78 inviting them to the Commission's workshop on June 25. The informational meeting will explain their
 79 inclusion on the list, along with three options for preservation of their land if they are interested. D.
 80 Lievens asked Commissioners to attend if they are able. M. Speltz has already received several calls from
 81 interested landowners.

83 Invasive plant species (Phragmites)- At the April 24 and May 8 meetings, removal of the invasive
 84 Phragmites species from the wetland on map and lot 6-113 was discussed. Hiring the requisite professional



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85 with the proper aquatic license will cost approximately \$3,000. D. Lievens will be visiting the site with the
86 invasives specialist on June 14 to refine the estimate. Commissioners agreed in April that the work could
87 be funded via the Conservation Fund, along with the line item budget if need be. D. Lievens also obtained
88 permission from the School Department for the specialist to survey the area of Phragmites in front of the
89 High School. School funds would be used for that removal project.

90
91 Joint Negotiating Committee- The Town Manager informed D. Lievens that the At-Large position for this
92 committee has been advertised since May 15, although no responses have been received. One resident
93 volunteered before the position was posted and the Town Manager expressed interest in moving ahead
94 with that candidate. D. Lievens asked the Commission for input. M. Speltz suggested that if the Town
95 Council will be interviewing that volunteer, the Commission could ask to be included to expedite the
96 process. If no interview takes place, Commissioners could still vote on their support using the candidate's
97 resume.

98
99 National Grid power line management- National Grid recently informed the Commission of maintenance
100 work they will be doing in Londonderry along their transmission lines. Through the NH Department of
101 Environmental Services Utility Notification rules, the Commission had previously requested notification for
102 any such work because of conservation easements adjacent to that land. An environmental scientist
103 working on behalf of National Grid subsequently contacted D. Lievens to see if the potential temporary use
104 of swamp mats in the buffer of a nearby named wetland would need special permitting from the Town or a
105 Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board. There were no concerns on the part of the Commission
106 regarding that scenario. D. Lievens will inform the Town Planner accordingly, who would then ultimately
107 decide if a site plan and associated Conditional Use Permit would be in order. It is not expected that the
108 Town Planner will be requiring such a site plan or any other submission.

109
110 Identify funding for land stewardship- M. Speltz stated that the Town attorney has determined that the
111 Commission has the ability to use non-bonded monies in the Open Space Fund for stewardship efforts on
112 conservation land. He suggested developing a master stewardship plan for the town.

113
114 **G. Harrington made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing**
115 **possible land acquisitions. M. Speltz seconded.**

116
117 **Roll call vote: Aye, Deb Lievens; Aye, Mike Speltz; Aye, Paul Nickerson; Aye, Marge Badois; Aye, Ben**
118 **LaBrecque; Aye, Gene Harrington; and Aye, Mike Considine.**

119
120 **G. Harrington made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was**
121 **approved, 7-0-0.**

122
123 **G. Harrington made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session indefinitely. P. Nickerson**
124 **seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

125
126 DRCs- 1. Precision Letter Corp. New 36,000+ sf manufacturing/warehouse building with office space



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127 (14-44-35);

128 Comments: At one point, the buffer approaches so close to the structure that it does not
129 allow for construction of maintenance of the buffer. Any impact should be mitigated.

130 Re the landscape plan: If they want to promote existing plant & wildlife habitat, they should
131 plant native species.

132
133 2. Coach Stop Restaurant Minor Site Plan - building addition (6-72-1);

134 Comments: None.

135
136 3. Continental Paving: Relocation of fuel island area (2-36 & 36-6);

137 Comments: Appears to be adjacent to a wellhead protection area extending from Litchfield
138 into Londonderry. Concerns about putting underground tanks in that area. Planning Dept.
139 may want to consider if this is a project of regional significance.

140
141 May 8, 2012 minutes- These minutes will be reviewed and approved at the June 26, 2012 meeting.

142
143 **M. Speltz made a motion to adjourn. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

144
145 The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

146
147 Respectfully submitted,

148
149
150
151 Jaye Trottier

152 Secretary