



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

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1 Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, and Mike Speltz,

2
3 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and appointed M. Speltz to vote for the Truda Bloom

4
5 Invasive plant species (Phragmites)- At the April 24 and June 12 meetings, removal of the invasive
6 Phragmites species from the wetland on map and lot 6-113 was discussed. D. Lievens visited the site with
7 the invasive species specialist on June 14. She expects a quote from the contractor soon. Based on the
8 time typically needed to acquire the requisite wetland permit, the contractor has estimated that the work
9 can begin in September or October of this year. Permission was obtained from the School Department to
10 have the Phragmites in front of the high school removed at the same time (using school funds). Even if the
11 work cannot commence this year, both areas are so rarely disturbed that the continued spread of the
12 invasive species will be minimal.

13
14 Joint Negotiating Committee- Resident Matt Neuman was recently appointed by the Town Council to be
15 the At-Large member of this committee. D. Lievens has since invited him to attend an upcoming LCC
16 meeting but she has not yet received a response and will follow up on the matter.

17
18 "Your Role in Londonderry's Green Infrastructure" event- Approximately 40 to 50 residents and other
19 members of the public attended this presentation given by M. Speltz on June 25. He reported that the
20 event resulted in several Londonderry landowners expressing interest in permanently preserving their land.

21
22 Identify funding for land stewardship- The Town attorney has determined that the Commission has the
23 ability to use non-bonded monies in the Open Space Fund for stewardship efforts on conservation land. A
24 master stewardship plan would need to be created to determine what exactly has to be managed on a
25 regular basis, along with the amount of funds needed to do so.

26
27 Identify methods to connect with community- Results of the 2011 Open Space Task Force survey revealed
28 that many residents are unaware of land that can be used for passive recreation. M. Considine suggested
29 that just as a feeling of responsibility has grown amongst residents for the stewardship of the Musquash
30 Conservation Area, so must the Commission work to cultivate that sense about other large conserved lands
31 in town, e.g. the Kendall Pond Conservation Area and the Ingersoll easements. Input from the public about
32 what they want and need should first be sought, along with a detailed list of what can and cannot be done
33 on each easement and Town owned property. Once people begin visiting those sites, an interest in such
34 things as the development and maintenance of trails can foster that sense of responsibility. M. Speltz
35 suggested creating a subcommittee with members of Londonderry Trailways, the Recreation Committee,
36 the Heritage Commission, and other groups to work on a master stewardship plan and public outreach
37 efforts. The LCC could oversee the subcommittee. Residents could be sought out as well for their
38 participation and input. G. Harrington suggested using the kiosks in the Musquash to advertise for their
39 assistance since the number of visitors there continues to increase. As a member of the Board of
40 Londonderry Trailways, M. Considine offered to brainstorm the idea of a subcommittee with that group. D.
41 Lievens has also discussed the idea with Deb Paul about putting a monthly article in her Londonderry Times
42 newspaper about trails and hiking in town.



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43 Creating a trail guide for Londonderry as well as a detailed description of activities allowed on each
44 individual property led the Commission to entertain the idea developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to
45 locate a professional who can take the time needed to properly handle these activities. D. Lievens will
46 research the process about creating and advertising an RFP. M. Speltz volunteered to draft it.

47
48 Target Practice in the Musquash- Because of a serious safety threat caused by recent random incidents of
49 target shooting in the Musquash, the LCC brought the issue to the Town Council who in turn began
50 investigating potential appropriate locations within the Musquash. M. Speltz stated that by applying the
51 constraints required for a possible site to the Town's GIS system, the GIS Manager has determined that no
52 areas in the Musquash will meet the necessary criteria. The Town Council will be revisiting the issue with
53 that report in July. M. Considine added that he is still coordinating with a local salvage yard dealer for
54 removal of the trailer that was one of the things being used for target practice.

55
56 Parking in the Musquash- M. Considine reported that he has not yet been able to speak with the Assistant
57 Town Engineer about what he would allow and/or recommend in the way of parking on land owned by
58 Public Service of New Hampshire at the Hickory Hill entrance to the Musquash (see May 8, 2012 minutes).

59
60 Musquash signage- M. Considine stated that Londonderry Trailways is working to post signage at the
61 various trailheads in the Musquash that identify where visitors can park so that they avoid doing so on
62 private property.

63
64 New England Cottontail Habitat- At the June 12 meeting, Wildlife Biologist Heidi Holman of New
65 Hampshire Fish & Game (F&G) and Town Forester Charlie Moreno presented a draft management plan for
66 New England Cottontail habitat in the Musquash. An analysis was done of a proposed management area
67 along 160 acres of the northeast border of the Musquash Conservation Area, 60 +/- of which would be
68 converted to the specific rabbit habitat. The LCC had decided to revisit the issue at this meeting to discuss
69 their support for the project. Without a more significant complement of Commissioners present, no actual
70 vote was taken. M. Speltz, however, noted that the proceeds from the timber cut that would take place
71 should be used for the *overall* management of the Musquash, not just the area converted to habitat. The
72 consensus was to relay to H. Holman that the Commission would like to support the plan but that the Town
73 is not in a position to fund it (particularly if it is a 20+/- year commitment). Financial support, M. Speltz
74 said, should come from Federal funding. If the program is not made a priority at the Federal level, it should
75 not be a made priority of Londonderry taxpayers. H. Holman was already informed at the June 12 meeting
76 that the Town would also need assistance with a public outreach program, which the Commission felt was
77 necessary due to the the visual impact of a popular recreational area. It was decided that the Commission
78 needed to be in agreement with F&G about the specifics before having H. Holman present the plan to the
79 Town Council. G. Harrington noted that there were no real objections on the part of the Commission, but
80 that definite concerns raised about funding and public relations would need to be addressed.

81
82 Autumn Musquash Field Day- Commissioners discussed the idea of having a Musquash Field day in the fall
83 in addition to the annual event held in February. D. Lievens will coordinate with M. Considine about a date
84 in September. G. Harrington recommended asking the County Forester to perform the firewood chainsaw



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85 demonstration done at a previous Field Day. M. Speltz added that a thru-hike could be done between the
86 trailheads on Faucher Road and Tanager Landing.

87
88 May 8, 2012 minutes- G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2012 public
89 session as written. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.

90
91 June 12, 2012 minutes- G. Harrington suggested adding the words "Re the landscape plan:" to the
92 beginning of the sentence on page four, line 131. He then made a motion to approve the minutes of the
93 June 12, 2012 public session as amended. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.

94 M. Considine made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012 non-public session as
95 written. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.

96
97 Accounts- M. Speltz made a motion to reimburse M. Considine an amount not to exceed \$400 from the
98 line item budget for lumber purchased for trail bridges in the Musquash. G. Harrington seconded. The
99 motion was approved, 3-0-1 with M. Considine abstaining.

100 M. Speltz made a motion to reimburse D. Lievens an amount not to exceed \$12.51 from the line
101 item budget for miscellaneous phone expenses related to Chairperson duties. G. Harrington seconded.
102 The motion was approved, 3-0-1 with D. Lievens abstaining.

103
104 G. Harrington made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing
105 possible land acquisitions. M. Considine seconded.

106
107 Roll call vote: Aye, Deb Lievens; Aye, Aye, Gene Harrington; Aye, Mike Considine; and Mike Speltz

108
109 G. Harrington made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was
110 approved, 4-0-0.

111
112 G. Harrington made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session indefinitely. M. Speltz
113 seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.

114
115 National Grid (trail easement)- M. Speltz stated that with the recent purchase of National Grid by Liberty
116 Energy, he will attempt to arrange a dialogue with the local representative to be established in Salem about
117 acquiring a trail easement on map and lot 8-17. This would link conservation land from map and lot 5-12 all
118 the way north to land bordering Litchfield Road.

119
120 The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:28 PM.

121
122 Respectfully submitted,

123
124
125 Jaye Trottier
126 Secretary