



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Minutes

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1 Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Paul Nickerson, Truda Bloom, Ben
2 LaBrecque, George Herrmann, Ken Henault, and Mark Oswald

3
4 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

5
6 May 24, 2011 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24,**
7 **2011 public session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-2**
8 **with P. Nickerson and G. Herrmann abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

9
10 South Road mitigation- D. Lievens reported that the New Hampshire Department of
11 Transportation invited the LCC to walk the area intended for mitigation for the widening of I-93
12 and asked if they had any concerns about the project (see October 12, 2010 minutes). P.
13 Nickerson stated that the work has begun on South Road. D. Lievens told DOT that there were
14 no concerns.

15
16 ARM grant- D. Lievens reported that the Galerucella beetles will arrive early on June 29 (see
17 May 24, 2011 minutes) and she will be releasing them that same day in the wetland on map
18 and lot 6-113. They will be sent all in one container, so the shipping costs will be lower than
19 expected. G. Harrington and K. Henault said they would try to join her. D. Lievens also stated
20 that per the grant documentation for this project, a sign is to be placed on the site identifying
21 that the wetland restoration was performed with monies from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation
22 Grant fund. She has contacted Lori Sommer at the Department of Environmental Services to
23 find out more about the sign.

24
25 DRC- Clark Farm Industrial Center, 17-45

26 Comments: No comments

27
28 Verani; Minimum Impact D+F, 17-35- George Chadwick of Hancock Associates and Giovanni
29 Verani presented a Minimum Impact Expedited Dredge and Fill application for 750 square feet
30 of wetland impact on map and lot 17-35 (62 Page Road). The wetland involved is towards the
31 frontage of the property, across from the Page Road/Lucas Road intersection. The wetland
32 would be crossed at its narrowest point to replace the existing corduroy road with a 16-foot
33 wide passage safe for horses to reach the back pasture. No paving would be involved.
34 Commissioners reviewed photographs of the area and had no objections. G. Harrington and T.
35 Bloom volunteered to perform a site walk with G. Chadwick and G. Verani on June 16.

36
37 Target practice in the Musquash- M. Considine was recently contacted with the question of
38 whether target practice during non-hunting seasons was permitted in the Musquash



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39 Conservation Area (see May 24, 2011 minutes). D. Lievens reported that the Town Manager
40 has differentiated between hunting, which is allowed in the Musquash, and target practice. He
41 is currently seeking advisement from the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer.

42
43 Merrimack River Wildlife Heritage Trail- New Hampshire Fish and Game contacted D. Lievens
44 about including information about the Musquash Conservation Area on their website. It would
45 be part of a wildlife viewing project that seeks to create “a series of linked sites in the
46 Merrimack watershed that tell a story of human and historical uses to create an understanding
47 and appreciation of wildlife in their habitats.” Commissioners reviewed the information to be
48 posted on Fish and Game’s website, some of which they updated. **G. Harrington authorized**
49 **the Chair to amend the information as discussed and respond positively to the request. P.**
50 **Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

51
52 Merrill easement- At the June 6 Town Council meeting, this proposed easement on map and
53 lot 17-10 was presented for their approval, having been continued from the May 16 meeting. It
54 was continued again to the August 8 meeting, by which time the Open Space Task Force’s
55 report is expected to be completed.

56
57 Easements- D. Lievens suggested creating a cable show including herself, Mike Speltz and an
58 attorney or other professional who specializes in conservation easements to explain the basic
59 ideas behind this conservation tool.

60
61 CIP- With the Capital Improvement Plan submittal forms due soon, the LCC was presented with
62 the “Steady State Approach” discussed at Open Space Task Force meetings (see attached). The
63 approach recommends keeping spending at its annual level of 2.7% of the Town budget and
64 purchasing a \$1 million bond in 2013.

65
66 Inventory- D. Lievens has begun working on an inventory of town owned land and conservation
67 easements to provide information as to what can be done on different parcels (i.e. hiking,
68 biking, hunting, etc.). She asked the Commission for their opinion as to whether to include
69 small parcels that are landlocked, primarily wetland, on private property, etc. The consensus of
70 the Commission was not to include those pieces, as they would not be of little or no use to the
71 public. G. Harrington noted that right of ways are town owned lands but they are not used the
72 way large conservation parcels would be with regard to public access and recreation.

73
74 Purple Loosestrife- The annual attempt to remove this invasive species from the flax field
75 wetland off Pillsbury Road will take place the second and third weekends in July.

76



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77 Musquash update- M. Considine stated that two trail days will be held this fall in the
78 Musquash. He will be attending a Litchfield Conservation Commission meeting on July 7 in to
79 determine if trails can be built in the Litchfield State Forest and connected to those in the
80 Musquash.

81 He also reported that ATV use in the Musquash has increased, so he will be bringing the
82 issue to Londonderry Trailways and the police. He and Bob Saur of Londonderry Trailways
83 have noticed that the gate at the Old Alexander Road has been taken down repeatedly to allow
84 access of ATVs. A permanent gate would cost approximately \$2,000 and M. Considine asked if
85 the LCC would be able to split the cost with Trailways. D. Lievens said it could be a possibility
86 under the next fiscal year's budget.

87
88 **G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion**
89 **was approved, 7-0-0** and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

90
91 Respectfully submitted,

92
93
94
95 Jaye Trottier
96 Secretary



46 situated east of I-93 and west of Wilson Road (map and lot 16-9). The one large area of multiple co-
 47 occurrences that will not be included as an area of potential complete preservation is the land south of
 48 the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport around Pettengill Road. This was omitted in the 2005 OSTF
 49 report as well because that area has been slated for development for years and has recently been zoned
 50 specifically as a "Gateway Business" area. Protection of such things as the forests blocks, endangered
 51 species, and natural aquifer in this area will be done primarily through the site plan process of the
 52 Planning Board along with other land use boards and committees. This process affords those boards
 53 and committees the ability not only to enforce the Town's regulations but also to negotiate with
 54 developers in an attempt to maximize preservation efforts. L. Whittemore asked what legal recourse
 55 the Town would have to protect an aquifer like that south of the airport, i.e. what entity retains the
 56 water rights. M. Speltz explained that neither the property owner nor the Town own the groundwater
 57 itself. In New Hampshire, groundwater is held in a public trust by the State, meaning the water belongs
 58 to all its citizens. What the Town can do, however, is develop an aquifer protection ordinance to
 59 regulate the effects of development on those water sources. M. Speltz pointed out other small areas
 60 that have multiple benefits co-existing on them, however, their relative size and the location within
 61 developed areas means their value will probably not be sustained in the long term.

62
 63 The discussion then transitioned from regulatory measures to one of the funding required to support
 64 the Open Space Plan. Currently, the Town is spending approximately \$900,000 per year to pay the
 65 principle and interest on previously passed Open Space bonds. The March online open space survey
 66 included the statement/question: "Currently, the Town spends 2.7% of its budget on conservation. What
 67 percentage would you be willing to see it spend?" When interpreting the results of that survey, the
 68 Task Force noted, "If one adds up the non-blank responses and removes the three outliers (33.5%, 25%,
 69 20%) the average is 2.702%. This would indicate that open space efforts should 'stay the course.'" (April
 70 7, 2011 minutes, p. 7). Using that interpretation, a Steady State approach to funding was introduced to
 71 the Task Force for their review. This approach involves keeping the level of commitment steady at 2.7%
 72 by introducing rolling bond measures timed to support new acquisitions as old ones are paid off. Since
 73 the rate of interest decreases as the principal is paid off over time, the \$900,000 spent annually can
 74 eventually be used in part towards the purchase of new bonds. Assuming bond payments are kept
 75 below \$900,000 (based on the 2011 payments totaling \$925,000) and assuming a 4% interest rate on
 76 new 10-year bonds, the steady state approach would call for the next \$1 million bond to be passed in
 77 2013. Four other bonds, three at \$1 million and one at \$3 million in 2015, 2021, 2023, and 2025
 78 respectively would balance out the five bonds that were authorized by taxpayers between 2001 and
 79 2007 (see Fig.

80 2). There was support
 81 for this idea,
 82 however, it was noted
 83 that increasing
 84 stewardship efforts
 85 should come first.

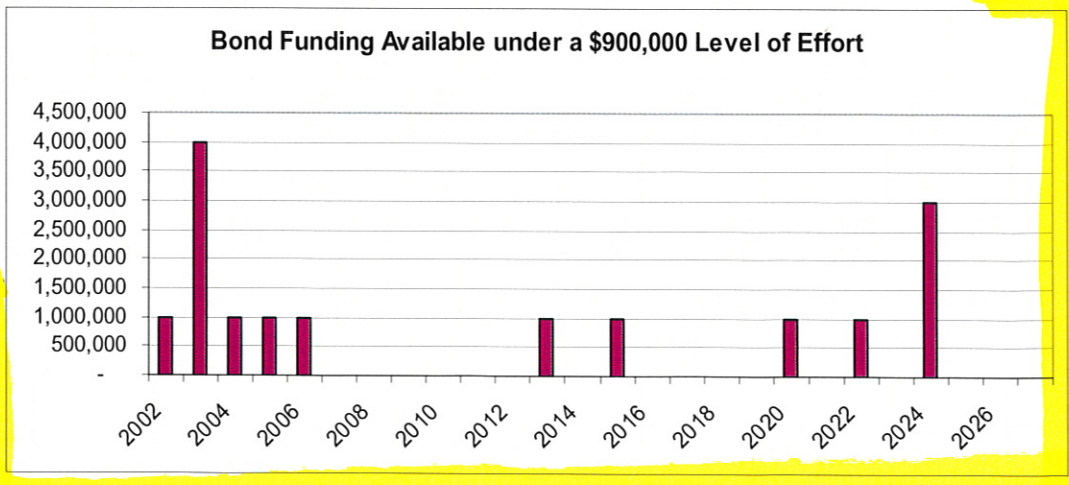


Fig. 2