



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Minutes

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1 **Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Ken Henault, Paul Nickerson,**
2 **Ben LaBrecque, Mark Oswald and Mike Speltz.**

3
4 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:30. She appointed M. Oswald to vote for Truda
5 Bloom.

6
7 PSNH ROW D+F- Nick Golon of TFMoran Inc. was joined by Jim Mayo and Elizabeth
8 LaRocca of Public Service of New Hampshire to present this Dredge and Fill application and
9 request a recommendation of approval from the LCC to the State Wetlands Bureau.

10 The objective is to expand capacity and availability of service by installing approximately
11 48 new utility poles along a 2.5-mile long corridor that will connect the Scobie Pond substation
12 to the Ash St. substation in Derry. The 100 to 135 foot-wide corridor will be created by clearing
13 within an existing easement running south/southeast from map and lot 13-70A to 10-45 and on
14 into Derry (see attached plan). Seven areas of wetland disturbance will occur in Londonderry,
15 totaling 80 square feet of permanent impact and 5,261 sf of temporary impact. The Derry
16 Conservation Commission voted on April 12 to recommend approval of the 480 sf of permanent
17 impact that will occur in their town. N. Golon explained that amongst the Best Management
18 Practices to be observed, the standard wood or plastic matting would be used in the areas of
19 temporary disturbance, which will then be restored afterwards. J. Mayo added that all wetlands
20 have been flagged, although those within the existing power line corridor were cut during regular
21 maintenance and will need to be replaced. Construction is scheduled to begin in late summer. P.
22 Nickerson confirmed that it would take place after bird-nesting season has passed.

23 M. Speltz inquired about electromagnetic radiation. J. Mayo stated that only a 12KV line
24 is being installed which is no greater than overhead wires along a typical street which dissipates
25 very quickly as one moves away from it. When asked about management of vernal pools, N.
26 Golon replied that one vernal pool was found to exist (north of "wetland impact area 3" on the
27 attached plan) as well as one satellite pond and that no encroachment would occur. He added
28 that PSNH specifically planned not to have any pole within 30 feet of the pond in order to
29 preclude any future intrusion during management of their lines. K. Henault asked about ATV
30 deterrence. J. Mayo replied that PSNH will make use of existing stonewalls and install gates at
31 necessary access points.

32 M. Speltz noted that PSNH had developed a well researched plan designed to minimize
33 wetland impacts. **K. Henault made a motion to authorize the Chair to write a letter to the**
34 **Wetlands Bureau recommending approval of the D+F permit. P. Nickerson seconded. The**
35 **motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

36
37 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- M. Speltz reported that the Town Council approved the
38 acceptance of this grant from the Department of Environmental Services on March 15. The
39 Town Manager has since signed the project agreement and conservation restrictions on behalf of
40 the Town. DES is in receipt of those documents and will present to the Governor's Council for
41 their approval at their May 12 meeting. If they accept, the Town can receive the funding and can
42 begin the actual wetlands restoration. A letter would first be sent to the abutters of 6-113,
43 informing them of the impending wetlands delineation and subsequent restoration that would
44 require permission for access through at least one abutter's property.



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46 Mack- M. Speltz provided an update on the work being done to fulfill the requirements of the
47 Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant to be used towards the purchase of a conservation
48 easement on map and lot 10-15.

49 The revised draft easement, which reflects the change of the two-lot withdrawal to only
50 one lot and no subdivision (see February 23 minutes), has been forwarded to the Natural
51 Resources Conservation Service after being approved by all other parties involved. M. Speltz
52 explained that the survey will need to be performed to fulfill the title commitment because
53 various slope and drainage easements on the property need to be identified. The survey,
54 however, is not needed until the appraisal is done, which has to occur as close to the closing as
55 possible. He said the appraisal could be done by the end of May.

56

57 Land Use Change Tax- D. Lievens reported that Petition Article 15 of the Town Meeting
58 Warrant, which sought to redirect 80% of funding from the Land Use Change Tax away from the
59 Conservation Fund, was defeated by a ratio of three to one.

60

61 Open Space survey- At the April 5 Town Council meeting, Councilor Brown brought up the
62 possibility of "charging a committee to revisit the 2006 open space task force report, for the
63 purpose of reviewing & assessing whether the current goals & acquisition methodology are in-
64 line with community goals and the town's financial position" (April 5 Town Council minutes, p.
65 6). The last update occurred in 2006 and the plan includes a recommendation to update every
66 five years. M. Speltz stated that a particular focus should be on the management of the land that
67 has been acquired since the program's inception. Since the Town Council is the body that will
68 charge an open space task force, he offered to draft a letter to illustrate what priorities the
69 Council might want to include in that assignment. The availability of the Town's GIS Manager
70 will need to be determined, as his input will be necessary throughout the process.

71

72 Town Council Liaison- Newly elected Town Councilor Tom Dolan will act as the liaison to the
73 LCC.

74

75 Musquash- tree damage- M. Considine gave an update on the tree damage in the Musquash
76 Conservation Area that he reported to the Commission at the February 25 and March 9 meetings.
77 He said that with the help of others (some unknown to him), only one hazard tree is still
78 obstructing one of the trails and he expects it to be removed fairly soon. He had previously
79 thought a professional would need to be hired but that will no longer be the case.

80

81 Tanager Landing- hazard trees- The owner of 3 Tanager Landing contacted D. Lievens in early
82 March because of hazard trees on her property that she believed to be on conservation land, i.e. a
83 no-cut buffer. No such information was found on the lot's septic plan or subdivision plan and D.
84 Lievens has not heard from the owner again.

85

86 American Chestnut- P. Nickerson relayed an offer by a friend of his to present information on
87 the rebirth of the American Chestnut tree. Commissioners expressed their interest and suggested
88 advertising the event to the public. P. Nickerson will relay the idea and update the LCC.



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90 Brookview residents- Residents of Brookview Drive have requested attending the next LCC
91 meeting to seek the Commission's input about the ongoing flooding issue in their neighborhood.
92 Commissioners did not believe they would be able to assist the homeowners in any way. It was
93 decided to ask staff members who are familiar with federal grant funding (e.g. the Town
94 Manager or Director of Economic Development) if they would be available to attend.

95 M. Speltz pointed out that the recent purchase of the 74-acre easement on the Estey
96 properties would help to keep the problem from intensifying by conserving land that acts as
97 flood storage for the area. He also suggested that this issue would be useful in approaching the
98 Planning Department about requiring developers to direct runoff from impervious surface
99 directly back into the water table as opposed to merely delaying the flow by detaining it
100 temporarily.

101

102 Musquash kiosk- In November of last year, the LCC voted to expend an amount not to exceed
103 \$50 to reimburse Bob Saur for repairing the kiosk at the Hickory Hill Road entrance to the
104 Musquash. He has since fixed it and the total cost came to \$64.12. **P. Nickerson made a
105 motion to authorize the Chair to expend an amount not to exceed \$14.12 from the line item
106 budget to reimburse Bob Saur for repairing the kiosk at the Hickory Hill Road entrance to
107 the Musquash. K. Henault seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

108

109 Purple loosestrife- The annual effort to remove this invasive species from the wetland in the flax
110 field on Pillsbury Road will take place again in July. As in past years, interns of the New
111 England Wildflower Society will be donating their time to help local volunteers. D. Lievens
112 asked if the LCC would be willing to provide a fee for service to cover their gas costs as was
113 done last year. **G. Harrington made a motion to donate \$50 from the line item budget
114 towards the NE Wildflower Society in order to support purple loosestrife removal at the
115 flax field. M. Oswald seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

116

117 Musquash trails/parking- M. Considine reported that the number of people coming to visit the
118 Musquash continues to increase. With as many as 20 cars parking at the Hickory Hill entrance on
119 a given weekend day, he asked if the Public Works Director could be approached about creating
120 a parking area. Commissioners tried to recall the specifics when this issue was brought up in the
121 past, specifically as to whether PSNH had objections to the idea of putting a parking area on their
122 property where Hickory Hill dead ends. D. Lievens offered to contact PSNH again. M.
123 Considine added that other entrance points on the cul de sacs of Sara Beth Lane and Faucher
124 Road are apparently becoming more popular as well.

125

126 A Trail Day will take place Saturday, April 17. The main goal will be to reroute the trail
127 originating at the Hickory Hill entrance and connect it to Tanager Landing via the power lines
128 near the Litchfield border. M. Speltz suggested asking the owner of map and lot 8-21 for a trail
129 easement on a small portion of his property to facilitate the trail's relocation out of the wetlands.

129

130 M. Considine explained that other trails will also need to be rerouted to keep them out of
131 wet areas. He has a list of other projects such as building kiosks on Tanager Lane and Sara Beth
132 Lane. M. Oswald suggested that potential Eagle Scouts might be looking for a project that could
apply. D. Lievens said she would review the LCC budget to see what funds could be available.



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134 Musquash update to Town Council- M. Speltz suggested that the Town Council be updated on
135 all of the work that has been performed in the Musquash in recent years as well as the increased
136 visitation to the area. D. Lievens asked M. Considine to compile a list of the accomplishments
137 over the past five years. She suggested that he and other volunteers could be interviewed by M.
138 Oswald on his weekly cable program or simply attend a Council meeting and speak during the
139 public comment portion. She will approach the LCC's new Town Council liaison, Tom Dolan,
140 for his input.

141

142 Non-public minutes- D. Lievens asked Commissioners to be prepared to perform the annual
143 review of non-public minutes at an upcoming meeting.

144

145 DRC- Merrill & Smith lot line adjustment; 17-10 & 11:

146

147 Comments: We recommend approval with the condition that lot 17-10 be added to the
148 easement of lot 17-6. Conservation Overlay District should be signed.

148

149 March 9, 2010 minutes- **M. Considine made a motion to approve the minutes of the March**
150 **9, 2010 public session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-3**
151 **with G. Harrington, P. Nickerson and M. Oswald abstaining as they had not attended the**
152 **meeting.**

153

154 The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

155

156 Respectfully submitted,

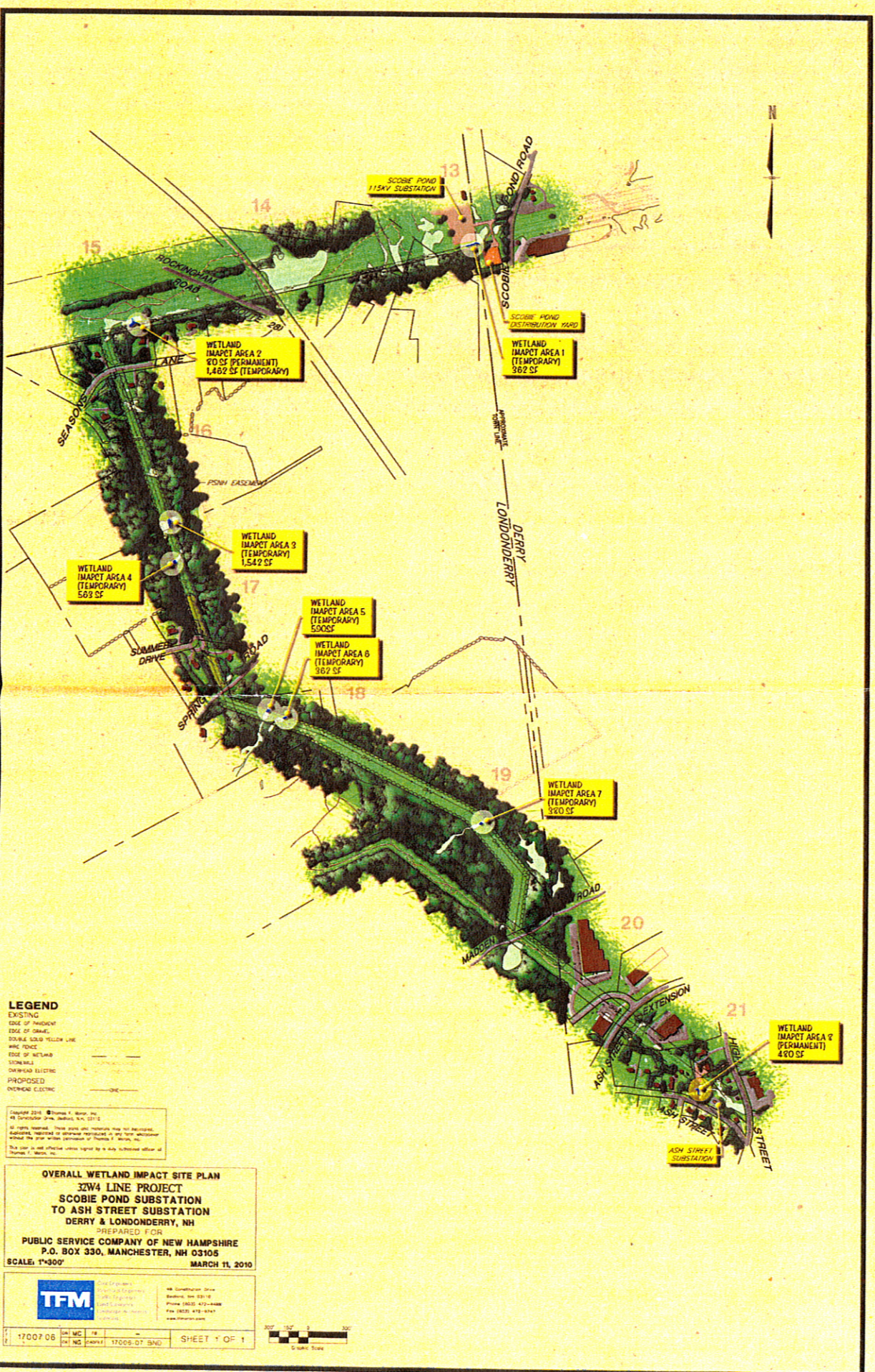
157

158

159

160 Jaye Trottier

161 Secretary



LEGEND
 EXISTING
 EDGE OF WETLAND
 EDGE OF GRAVE
 DOUBLE LINED YELLOW LINE
 WIRE FENCE
 EDGE OF WETLAND
 TOWN/STATE
 OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
 PROPOSED
 OVERHEAD ELECTRIC

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OVERALL WETLAND IMPACT SITE PLAN
32W4 LINE PROJECT
SCOBIE POND SUBSTATION
TO ASH STREET SUBSTATION
DERRY & LONDONDERRY, NH
 PREPARED FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 P.O. BOX 330, MANCHESTER, NH 03105
 SCALE: 1"=300' MARCH 11, 2010

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