



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

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1 **Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Ken Henault, Truda Bloom, Ben**
2 **LaBrecque, and Mike Speltz**

3
4 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:30 and appointed M. Speltz to vote for Paul Nickerson.

5
6 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- D. Lievens reported that DES recently asked for further
7 documentation regarding the ARM grant they awarded to the Town in order to seek approval from the
8 Governor's Council. That paperwork was supplied by the Town Manager's office and DES is scheduled
9 to go before the Council on July 28.

10
11 Mack- The 2009 appraisal of the Mack property on map and lot 10-15 had valued a potential 24+/- acre
12 conservation easement at \$925,000. A second appraisal required to obtain a Farm and Ranch Land
13 Protection Program grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service determined the value to be
14 \$535,000. Included in the Purchase and Sale agreement with the Town was the opportunity for the Macks
15 to withdraw if this appraisal arrived at a value less than \$900,000 and the Town to withdraw if it was
16 more. M. Speltz stated that a letter received from Andy Mack Jr. stated they have exercised that option to
17 terminate the agreement, despite the fact that there were still questions regarding the fundamental
18 differences in assumptions used by the two different appraisers. M. Speltz had been joined by A. Mack
19 Sr. at a meeting with Town staff to inquire about those discrepancies but said any forthcoming answers
20 have been made moot by the Macks recent choice to pursue a higher offer from another party. M. Speltz
21 noted that the latest appraisal was on file at the Town Hall for public inspection.

22
23 Purple Loosestrife- Ten volunteers (D. Lievens, a staff member of the New England Wildflower Society
24 along with three interns, two volunteers from the NEWFS' Plant Conservation Program and 3
25 Londonderry residents) spent part of July 9 removing the invasive purple loosestrife plant from the flax
26 field off Pillsbury Road. Efforts will continue this coming Friday and Saturday, weather permitting.

27 D. Lievens reported that Galerucella beetles released last year that feed exclusively on loosestrife
28 were found, although not in the numbers she expected. She speculated some could have been destroyed
29 along with their eggs during fall mowing in the back part of the field where some of the beetles were
30 introduced. The minimum goal, however, of trying to protect the rare plants that grow in the flax field
31 continues to be met. She also noticed that the larger plants closer to the road did not grow back this year.
32 G. Harrington added that the smaller plants would not produce as much seed for next year's plants,
33 suggesting that annual efforts may be yielding positive results. He also shared an accomplishment in
34 Hudson where Galerucella beetles reduced an area as large as five acres once covered with purple
35 loosestrife to a very modest growth.

36
37 South Road mitigation- Members of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation will be attending
38 the July 14 Planning Board meeting to present proposed mitigation for the widening for I-93 on South
39 Road. Part of this effort will include replacement of a culvert on that road. D. Lievens said she was
40 hoping to attend.

41
42 Town Forest- Londonderry Times reporter April Guilmet previously asked for copies of the bids
43 submitted earlier this year for the selective timber cut to be performed in the Town Forest. As she was
44 attending this meeting, D. Lievens gave her the opportunity to review copies of the three bids.

45 Town Forester Charlie Moreno conveyed to D. Lievens that the logging company ultimately
46 chosen, Monadnock Forest Products, would be available this summer. The Town, however, will not want
47 any work done until after Old Home Days in August. Conservation Commissioner Mark Oswald has



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48 informed the Town Manager's secretary that anyone looking to use the Town Common after Old Home
49 Days (e.g. for a wedding) be made aware of a possible conflict with the logging project.

50 He further informed D. Lievens that once the area to be added to the Town Common is clear-cut, it
51 may take some time to make the area "presentable" again because stumps will need to be removed, after
52 which grading and seeding will take place. Selecting a landscaper, he reasoned, should therefore be done
53 soon so their restoration can begin as soon as the cut is complete. The LCC decided to ask C. Moreno
54 whether the logger could perform that work as well. If they cannot, it was decided to ask the Town's
55 Department of Public Works if they could. Any work beyond the landscaping such as the addition of
56 picnic tables will be the responsibility of the Heritage Commission since they are stewards of the Town
57 Common. It is expected that the revenue generated by the timber cut will not only offset the project costs
58 but will also fund the removal of invasive bittersweet from the forest which will require a licensed
59 specialist.

60
61 Agricultural Commissions- Last month's issue of Town and City magazine featured an article about
62 developing agricultural commissions to keep "agriculture viable in NH communities." D. Lievens asked
63 if the LCC would be interested in initiating the development of an agricultural commission in
64 Londonderry. It was thought that perhaps the best place to start would be the Planning department,
65 although ultimately the Town Council would be responsible with charging such a commission. D.
66 Lievens offered to call the Director of Planning and Economic Development. M. Speltz suggested the
67 first step be to ask the Town Council if they would indeed support such a concept. Since he will be
68 attending the July 15 Town Council meeting regarding the Open Space Task Force, he offered to present
69 this idea to them as well. If the feedback is positive, he advised determining whether enough volunteers
70 would be interested. This could be achieved through a letter to the editor of the Londonderry Times
71 explaining details and providing contact information and/or through the same process that will take place
72 for the new OSTF. The consensus was that the LCC could help organize the commission and then let it
73 be autonomous from that point on.

74
75 Pond workshop- G. Harrington made Commissioners aware of a pond workshop being sponsored by the
76 Natural Resources Conservation Service. It will take place in Temple, NH on July 21 at 6 PM. Topics
77 will include pond and riparian buffer maintenance, pond ecology, water quality, weed control and the
78 stocking of fish species. The registration deadline is July 16 and the fee is \$7.00 per person or \$12.00 per
79 couple for materials and light refreshments.

80
81 June 22, 2010 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010**
82 **public session as written. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-3, with K.**
83 **Henault, T. Bloom, and B. LaBrecque abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

84 **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010 non-public session**
85 **as written. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-3 with the same abstentions**
86 **noted above.**

87
88 **G. Harrington made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of**
89 **discussing possible land acquisitions as well as the potential release of portions of non-public**
90 **minutes regarding possible land acquisitions. M. Considine seconded.**

91
92 **Roll call vote: Aye, Gene Harrington; Aye, Ben LaBrecque; Aye, Deb Lievens; Aye, Truda Bloom;**
93 **Aye, Mike Considine; Aye, Mike Speltz; and Aye, Ken Henault.**

94



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95 Note: D. Lievens left the non-public session prior to the discussion about releasing redacted information
96 from non-public sessions from which she recused herself in 2006 and 2007.

97

98 **M. Speltz made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was**
99 **approved, 6-0-0.**

100

101 **M. Speltz made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session indefinitely. T. Bloom**
102 **seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

103

104 **T. Bloom made a motion that the portions of the minutes previously redacted in the four non-public**
105 **sessions of the Londonderry Conservation Commission in 2006 and 2007 that D. Lievens did not**
106 **attend remain redacted because they involve personal information, negotiation methods and/or a**
107 **potential or ongoing transaction. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

108

109 T. Bloom made a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:30. M. Considine seconded. The motion was
110 approved, 6-0-0.

111

112 Respectfully submitted,

113

114

115

116 Jaye Trottier

117 Secretary