



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, November 23, 2010
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1 Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Ken Henault, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque, Mike Speltz, and
2 George Herrmann (late)

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

5
6 Membership- Full LCC member Ken Henault's term will expire on December 31, 2010. He had requested
7 reappointment as an alternate, which was recently approved by the Town Council. G. Herrmann, currently
8 an alternate, will become a full member once his term as a member of the School Board expires in March
9 2011. Since Mark Oswald will stepping down as an LCC alternate at the end of the year, D. Lievens will ask
10 the Town Council Administrative Assistant to advertise the alternate vacancy.

11
12 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- D. Lievens reported that the deed issues regarding map and lot 6-113
13 (see August 24 and October 12 minutes) have been resolved and recorded at the Registry of Deeds. She
14 will also be contacting Lori Sommer of the Department of Environmental Services and the surveyors at
15 Gove Environmental Services regarding the billing and payment of the required wetlands delineation.

16
17 Tarrytown easement- This easement on map and lot 6-31 was granted to the Town as part of the
18 development of the Elliot Medical Facility on 6-73 in 2007. It has become known, however, that the
19 document was not signed by the Town Council. Once this is done, it will be recorded at the Registry of
20 Deeds.

21
22 Monitoring- D. Lievens reported that there were no issues with the recent monitoring of the Moose Hill
23 Orchard easements. Regarding the Plummer easement on map and lot 8-1, however, one violation and a
24 second possible intrusion were noted. Behind 5 Chandler Drive, within the easement, a fire pit has been
25 arranged, fenced in, and decorated with lights. D. Lievens contacted the son-in-law of the owner of 8-1,
26 Doug Johnson, who manages the property, so that he can speak to the owners of 5 Chandler and have the
27 materials removed. She will contact him again for an update. Additionally, some fill has been placed at the
28 back of 3 Chandler, although it needs to be verified whether it actually infringes on the easement. D.
29 Lievens was able to confirm with the Building Department that there are currently no permits issued for
30 work to be done at that location.

31 M. Speltz recently walked the easements on Jake Road (6-15-4) and the Hannaford lot (7-73). He
32 noted that both need to have some bounds marked while others need to be verified and put in place if
33 need be (see individual reports). He also found a tire and a concrete pier on the Hannaford site which he
34 located with GPS coordinates. The invasive species Japanese Bittersweet is growing on both sites and a
35 significant stand of Autumn Olive exists on the Hannaford easement. A letter will be sent to the owner of
36 the Hannaford property to inform them of the recent inspection and request the trash items be removed.
37 A remedy for the responsibility of boundary markers is not spelled out in either easement deed, although it
38 will still be requested that the owners follow through with their placement and blazing. The LCC can
39 include an offer in the letters to walk the land with the owners if it would help resolve the issues. This kind
40 of notification, M. Speltz said, needs to be done for all issues related to Town held conservation easements
41 to document the problems and concerns themselves as well as the fact that property owners have been
42 made aware of them.



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43 Monitoring for the easements on the three phases of Sunnycrest, the two Merrill properties and
44 Ingersoll have all been completed by the Rockingham County Conservation District.
45

46 Town Forest/Town Common- The following excerpts from LCC minutes outline the most recent
47 developments in the ongoing history of the tree-cutting project in the Town Forest which began in 2007.
48 The LCC discussed this history based on the recent request by the Heritage Commission that the LCC to
49 restore the area recently cut:
50

51 Aug 28 2007: "The Fire Department is looking for an opportunity for firemen to gain
52 experience in emergency tree removal. M. Oswald suggested working in the Town Forest
53 since the Fire Department would not want the liability involved working on private
54 property and the Town Common could use some extra space if some trees were removed.
55 He offered to speak to the LCC about it, as they are responsible for the maintenance and
56 welfare of the forest. He proposed cutting a 30 to 40 foot wide swath along the stone
57 wall that separates the forest from the common, starting at the bandstand and moving
58 back towards Mammoth Road...while still blocking the view from Mammoth Road."

59 April 8 2008: "After numerous site walks and input from the County and Town
60 Foresters, the LCC decided as stewards of the Town Forest that a light thinning would be
61 in order for the forest's overall health. Town Forester Charlie Moreno submitted a
62 formal proposal which estimated that the income made from the lumber harvested will
63 more than pay for the small clearing/stumping to be done for the Common. Some
64 misconceptions have arisen in town regarding this project and have involved the Heritage
65 Commission who are stewards of the Town Common. Because of this, another site walk
66 has been scheduled for April 10th at 6 P.M. "
67

68 May 13, 2008: "M. Oswald updated the LCC with the news that the Heritage
69 Commission is still in discussions regarding the Town's intent to clear a small section of
70 the Town Forest where it abuts the Town Common. As the stewards for the Town
71 Common, the Heritage Commission has taken an interest in examining the details of this
72 proposal. They will continue with the topic at their next scheduled meeting."

73 May 27, 2008: "M. Oswald reported that the Heritage/Historic District
74 Commission has formally approved the LCC's request to perform a selective harvest
75 within the Town Forest as well as the clearing of a small area abutting the Town Common.
76 Conditions of the approval include that the cleared area may not exceed one acre or
77 include larger, mature trees; loaming and seeding should be kept to a minimum; no
78 disturbance may occur to the stonewall and a member of the Historic District Commission
79 shall be present when trees are flagged for cutting. D. Lievens said she would contact
80 Town Forester Charlie Marino to update him with this information. M. Oswald offered to
81 oversee the project on behalf of the LCC and told D. Lievens to have C. Moreno call him
82 directly. The clearing and subsequent loaming and seeding is scheduled to take place in
83 the early fall after this year's Old Home Days."

84 D. Lievens noted that the Old Home Day Committee had also become involved during the process
85 because of the need to wait until after the annual August event to start the work. This led to their



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86 additional input as to what area should be cut. Since May of 2008, the LCC and the Town Forester have
87 worked to prepare for the selective cut and clearing of a picnic area. Monadnock Forest Products was
88 hired to perform the work and the proceeds from the sale of the timber were used to hire a State licensed
89 professional to remove the considerable amount of invasive Oriental Bittersweet. In late August of this
90 year, M. Oswald was joined by the Assistant Director of Public Works and John Dahlfred of the Heritage
91 Commission to walk the area one last time before and verify what was to be cut. J. Dahlfred has since
92 passed away. M. Oswald reported to the chair that he will contact Heritage Commission Chair Art Rugg in
93 the very near future to discuss the issue.

94
95 G. Herrmann arrived. She appointed him to vote for Mike Considine.

96
97 **October 26, 2010 minutes- G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2010**
98 **public session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-3 with K. Henault, B.**
99 **LaBrecque, and G. Herrmann abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

100
101 **Musquash Field Day-** The consensus of the Commission was to hold this annual event on February 12,
102 2011. G. Herrmann offered to contact Mike Considine to verify he will be available on that date. D. Lievens
103 asked him to let her know if the date is satisfactory so she can contact the UNH Cooperative Extension
104 about publicity.

105
106 **Open Space bond-** M. Speltz asked for the consensus of the Commission about the current placement of
107 the Open Space Plan in the Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP Committee's 2012-2017 report
108 recommended funding the Open Space Plan in 2013. M. Speltz had asked the Planning Board to reconsider
109 moving it up to the current plan year but they approved the CIP's recommendation. At this point, an
110 appeal could be brought to the Town Council to place an Open Space bond on the Town Meeting Warrant.
111 The rationale for doing so, he explained, is that the 2010/2011 Open Space Task Force will be making
112 recommendations for the preservation of land and natural resources. If those recommendations have to
113 wait two years for funding, they may no longer be available to conserve. Because the CIP Committee and
114 Planning Board have not approved a higher priority for Open Space, the Town Council has not approved an
115 O. S. bond being placed on the Town warrant for the past several years. Thus, residents have not been able
116 to show their preference. Another factor will be whether Londonderry will change its Charter and adopt
117 Official Ballot voting in place of the current Town Council - Budgetary Town Meeting form of government.

118 It can also be argued that it would be more appropriate to wait until the O.S. Task Force has made
119 its final recommendations and then perhaps pursue a bond for the 2012 Town Meeting since there is still
120 approximately \$1 million in the O.S. Fund. Considering the first indications of this year's budget season and
121 proposed budget cuts, even trying to organize a citizen's petition to put the issue before the voters at Town
122 meeting may not be worthwhile. Following further discussion, it was decided to wait until for the updated
123 O.S. Plan. The process of the O.S. Task Force could be used to better educate the public so that when
124 economic circumstances are more favorable, the timing might be better suited to request funding for Open
125 Space.

126
127 **Open space publicity-** The LCC brainstormed about sponsoring hikes and events at various conservation
128 sites in town to promote interest in open space preservation. Suggestions were to provide articles for



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129 www.londonderrynh.net for such things as geocaching in the Musquash, having a spring event at Kendall
130 Pond Conservation Area (much like Musquash Field Day in February), and sponsoring hikes at such places
131 as the Musquash, Ingersoll, Mack's and Sunnycrest. M. Speltz noted that these ideas have been discussed
132 before and asked that members volunteer to take the initiative on some of these projects. G. Herrmann
133 said that the ALERT Emergency Response Team often practices in the Musquash and offered to contact
134 them as well as Londonderry Trailways President Bob Saur. D. Lievens said she would reach out to a
135 conservation contact in Massachusetts who leads hikes in the Musquash. She also offered to have
136 information on the various conservations areas posted on the Town website.

137
138 G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Henault seconded. The motion was approved, 7-
139 0-0 and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

140
141 Respectfully submitted,

142
143
144 Jaye Trottier
145 Secretary