



Londonderry Conservation Commission  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
Minutes  
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**Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Speltz (late), Paul Nickerson, George Herrmann and Mark Oswald**

Call to order; 7:40 P.M.

D. Lievens appointed G. Herrmann to vote for Mike Considine and appointed M. Oswald to vote for Truda Bloom.

January 22, 2008 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 public session as written. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved 3-0-2 (G. Herrmann abstained as he had not attended the meeting and M. Oswald abstained as he had recused himself from being appointed to vote at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting).**

**P. Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 non-public session as written. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved 3-0-2 with the same abstentions noted above.**

Miscellaneous-

- 1) The Conservation Commission Institute will be hosting a meeting on sustainable landscaping, integrated landscaping and innovative landscaping techniques on February 21, 2008.
- 2) The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the New Hampshire Division of Forest and Lands and the USDA Forest Service, has published a book entitled "Integrated Landscaping." D. Lievens suggested the possibility of voting to purchase a copy on behalf of the Town's Planning Department with the intention of possibly integrating recommendations regarding invasive species into the Town's zoning ordinance.

M. Speltz arrived. D. Lievens appointed him to vote for Ken Henault.

Public hearing- The Londonderry Conservation Commission entered into a public hearing at 7:45 PM regarding the purchase of map and lot 11-11. The public hearing was closed at 8:10 and the LCC voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that the Town proceed with the purchase and sale agreement regarding map and lot 11-11. (See separate Public Hearing minutes).

Musquash Field Day- D. Lievens reported that the annual Musquash Field Day (held February first) was once again a successful event.

Elections- D. Lievens entertained motions for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the LCC.

**G. Harrington nominated D. Lievens for the position of Chair. G. Herrmann seconded. The nomination was approved, 5-0-1 (D. Lievens abstained).**

**G. Herrmann nominated G. Harrington for the position of Vice Chair. M. Speltz seconded. The nomination was approved, 5-0-1 (G. Harrington abstained).**

Accounts (reimbursement)- **D. Lievens entertained a motion to reimburse the LCC Chair \$29.23 from the line item budget for phone and postage expenses incurred over the last seven months. G. Harrington so moved. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-1 (D. Lievens abstained).**



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NE Power (a/k/a National Grid)- After the acquisition of the George property (present day map and lot 5-12) in 2006, D. Lievens began a series of discussions with a contact in the real estate department of New England Power Company, owners of northerly abutting lot 8-17. Obtaining an easement on that land or purchasing some portion of it would create a connection between 5-12 and the Musquash Conservation Area.

During the most recent discussion, D. Lievens was told that NE Power is not interested in selling anything outright, nor are they able at this time to entertain an easement concept because they are investigating their own possibilities with the land (e.g. for a new substation).

M. Speltz asked if an easement that included the right to withdraw might be amenable to NE Power. D. Lievens agreed that it seemed a temporary solution may be the only real choice at this point in time. Even a simple trail would fulfill the LCC's intentions, especially since the portion of the land under the power lines should remain undeveloped. M. Speltz noted, however, that it is conceivable that development could take place at some point in the future, particularly with a cul de sac coming in from the Litchfield side of the border.

Elliot Health Systems; Mitigation- Ken Rhodes of CLD Consulting Engineers and Jim Gove of Gove Environmental Services had attended the January 8<sup>th</sup> LCC meeting to discuss an upcoming project for Elliot Health Systems. A new facility is planned for map and lot 6-31 which would require some form of mitigation.

Luke Hurley of Gove Environmental attended this meeting to review various potential conservation projects towards which a donation in lieu of land mitigation could be provided. He stated that by the State's standards and calculations, the total donation for approximately 20,000 square feet of wetlands impact would be \$75,000. Among other criteria, the land chosen would need to be a minimum of five acres and would have to consist of at least 50% uplands.

D. Lievens had previously posed the idea of buying a parcel abutting Scobie Pond but the owners have stated they are not interested and plan to conserve the property themselves. Other possibilities discussed were:

1. Protection of at least the back portion of lots 7-116-1 through 5 which would enhance the current protection of that portion of Beaver Brook. It was doubtful that this would incorporate the amount of acreage required.

2. Map and lot 8-22 (a/k/a Colby Litchfield); this is still a possible mitigation piece for the exit 4A project although it is unknown when that plan will come to fruition.

3. Map and lot 8-21 (a/k/a the Mathes property); both this piece and 8-22 would help connect the Musquash to other conservation land.

4. At least the eastern half of map and lot 11-2 which would connect land currently under a purchase and sale agreement (lot 11-11; see public hearing portion of these minutes) to 11-42 which is protected by the State.

5. Map and lot 1-26 (a/k/a the Matson property), near the Bockes Forest.

L. Hurley and K. Rhodes will look into the various possibilities, weigh the results against the State's criteria and return to the LCC for further input. There was a definite consensus on both sides that the ideal is to find prime upland pieces abutting currently conserved property to enlarge those protected areas.

DRC's (3)-

1. Falling Water Office Park site plan, 17-5-6

Comments: The edge of the CO district needs to be marked on sheet 11. They are out of the district, which is fine, but needs to be addressed for construction. Landscape plan; Euonymus species is a banned plant per the invasive species list- remove. Can't find any snow storage. Recommend that they look at mitigation for soluble and suspended contaminants coming off the large amount of impervious surface. The topography concentrates all contaminants into one or two outflows.



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2. Stonyfield Farm Treatment Facility Upgrade, 14-44-13  
No comments.

Town Forest- Since the early fall of 2007, the LCC has discussed the possibility of clearing a section of the Town Forest in order to provide needed space for the abutting Town Common while giving the Fire Department a chance to gain experience in emergency tree removal.

At the last LCC meeting, D. Lievens said a proposal would be forthcoming from the Town Forester, Charlie Moreno. She has since received his report and reviewed the plan for LCC members. A light thinning of the forest will more than pay for the work involved with the clearing of a section to add to the Common.

Although there was hope this work could be done in time for this year's Old Home Days, P. Nickerson pointed out that it would be detrimental to the bird habitat to perform the work after winter. Rather than wait for next winter, G. Harrington suggested logging could take place just after Old Home Days in the early fall so that the area cleared could be seeded and ready for Old Home Days in 2009. M. Oswald and P. Nickerson will follow up on the project for the LCC, particularly as it relates to specifying the area to be cleared.

**M. Speltz made a motion to approve the contract submitted by the Town Forester. G. Herrmann seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

Possible land acquisition- M. Speltz is in the process of reviewing an appraisal done on a piece of property previously discussed by the LCC in non-public session. He will update the LCC on the matter at an upcoming meeting.

Fire arms range- M. Oswald notified the LCC that the Town Council voted to accept a donation of land from Continental Paving to be used as a fire arms range by the Police Department. He noted that the actual firing line will be paved in order to collect the brass casings but said there is no plan on how to deal with the environmental impact of the lead. As a municipal project, Planning Board approval and a public hearing would not be required. M. Oswald asked his fellow Council members that the topic at least be made an agenda item to promote public awareness, both for environmental and safety reasons.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Trottier  
Secretary