

OPEN SPACE TASKFORCE  
MEETING  
03/03/11

The Open Space Task Force Public meeting was held in the Cable Access Studio, 281 Mammoth Road. Regular meetings are cablecast live and videotaped for the convenience of our viewers at home.

**Present:** Mike Speltz, Chair and Conservation Commission Representative; Dana Coons, Vice Chair and Planning Board Alternate Representative; Art Rugg, Heritage Commission Representative; Bill Manning, Recreation Commission Representative; Marty Srugis, Solid Waste Advisory Committee Representative; George Herrmann, School Board Representative; Bob Saur, Londonderry Trailways Representative; and Tim McKenney, At-Large Representative; John Curran, Budget Representative; Lisa Whittemore, Budget Committee Alternate Representative, Jeff Locke, At-Large Representative and Stella Tremblay, State Representative.

**Absent:** Lynn Wiles, Planning Board Representative

**Also present:** John Vogl, GIS Manager, and Margo Lapietro, Executive Assistant filling in for Secretary, Jaye Trottier.

Mike Speltz called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

M. Speltz asked for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes of 1/6/11. **George Herrmann made a motion to accept, second Art Rugg. Committees vote 11-0-0.**

John Vogl passed out the public opinion survey that was listed on the Town website. He said he got 112 responses to date. 140 were abandoned, roughly 60 were incomplete, and he estimated a total of 300 hits on the site. He said they have received diverse opinions, and stated we should get a good cross section from the town. M. Speltz said the survey can be accessed on the Town website or at the Town Clerk's office. The survey will be available until 3/20/11. J. Vogl said he spoke to the Town Moderator and she will allow the survey to be distributed on voting day and town meeting day. He asked if anybody will be available to man the table for both those days and, Marty Srugis, Jeff Locke and George Herrmann, said they will be there. G. Herrmann asked J. Vogl if he found any abuse on the site. J. Vogl he responded the vast majority are valid hits. M. Speltz said he has asked to do a presentation on the Open Space Task Force Report at town meeting so people can look at it and is waiting to hear if it will be allowed. J. Vogl passed out the latest Open Space Task Force Report explaining it is an update of their prior report. He will put it on the webpage tomorrow so if there are any comments he requested that they send them to him. Lisa Whittemore asked for clarification of the easement status of the Ingersoll property. M. Speltz responded that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) owns the land but the Town owns and manages the easement. J. Vogl said he can clarify it with an asterisk in the report.

46 M. Speltz talked about a prior question from M. Srugis regarding the area needed for a septic  
47 system. M. Speltz said that the needs are based on the local zoning and subdivision regulations.  
48 Building size is dictated by soil types on any given parcel of land.  
49

50 M. Speltz explained what a SWOT exercise is. It is an approach to making the most efficient use  
51 of scarce resources to achieve strategic goals. He said we should examine the strengths,  
52 weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He explained the rules of “brainstorming” and advised  
53 the committee to contact J. Vogl via e-mail if they have more ideas after the meeting.  
54

55 The committee proceeded to come up with ideas for the four areas.  
56

57 **STRENGTHS**

58 location-golden triangle  
59 good quality of land  
60 good zoning ordinances  
61 currently protected land includes 15% of Londonderry plus another 15% with partial protection.  
62 community appreciation of, support for and active use of Open Space is high  
63 town government support  
64 good conservation overlay ordinance  
65 high natural resource value  
66 we have people who use the land  
67 Good tools/people/GIS  
68 Good landowner cooperation  
69 Trailways is a very active manager of recreational areas  
70 large protected areas like the Musquash  
71 identification of historical assets  
72 good planning regulations  
73 Working farms/forests  
74 Recycling programs  
75 Subdivision/site plan regulations  
76

77 **WEAKNESSES**

78 finding grant funds  
79 40 miles from Boston/I93  
80 Dependency on outside water  
81 Budget/fund pressure  
82 Fragmentation; local & regional  
83 lack of green corridors; very fragmented  
84 no clear stewardship plan with some of the properties  
85 Inconsistent funding  
86 economic pressure on the land owners  
87 farmers are land rich, cash poor  
88 focused opposition  
89 no aquifer protection ordinance  
90 can't control regional pollution  
91 climate change

92 places in town where people do not have good access/limited access for some  
93 can only maintain cannot expand.  
94 stewardship has very limited funding  
95 little groundwater and water from ponds  
96 some areas are prone to flooding  
97 Rare Threatened Endangered/Exemplary Natural Communities not well documented and not  
98 protected  
99 hard to help “old” homeowners  
100 a lot of agricultural land remains unprotected  
101 finding, accepting match funds  
102 dependency on grants  
103

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

105 Engaged group of leaders able to take action  
106 turn development into awareness of Open Space  
107 communicate recreation opportunities  
108 communicate quality of life value of Open Space  
109 property values depressing  
110 collaborate with and lead regional rail trails for Open Space planning  
111 emulate projects like Hudson/Windham  
112 good Open Space opportunities remain  
113 awareness of flooding to Open Space  
114 insert Open Space more into the planning process  
115 pursue grants  
116 work with I93 and other large projects to decrease fragmentation-increase Open Space.  
117 develop stewardship plan  
118 increase recycle rate/hazardous waste day  
119 communicate efficiency of stewardship/cost avoidance  
120 highest and best use of some land is as Open Space  
121  
122 Stella Tremblay asked if a trust fund is set up for donations, M. Speltz responded that the Open  
123 Space Fund can accept donations with Council approval.  
124

#### **THREATS**

126 development of land w/high resource value  
127 low land prices attract developers  
128 I93 expansion  
129 Defunding grant programs/agencies  
130 no town approval of government projects  
131 road salt  
132 accidental spills/malfunctions  
133 dilution of de-icer fluids at MHT  
134 High growth  
135 acid rain  
136 climate change  
137 invasive species (plant & animal)

- 138 further fragmentation
- 139 downshifting of state budgets
- 140 loss of partial protection
- 141 fading public support
- 142 no kids outdoors
- 143 state emphasis on revenue over Open Space

144

145 **The Delphi Process**

146

147 The Task Force then engaged in a “Delphi” process, which is a way of exploiting group  
 148 knowledge without engaging in “group think.” Each member independently weighted each of  
 149 the natural benefits the task force has been pursuing on a 100 point scale, and then compared  
 150 their scores to the group scores. A second round of voting produced slightly altered scores as the  
 151 members coalesced around the values shown in the attached spreadsheet. The task force also  
 152 assigned and then took the group average for “bonus” weights applied to three geographical  
 153 attributes: proximity to other open space; providing areas of town with open space access that  
 154 did not have it within a 10 minute walk to at least 10 acres of open space; and mitigating the  
 155 effects of intensive development (added during Delphi discussions).

156

157 The Task Force members conducted two rounds of Delphi scoring, ending up with the table  
 158 values presented below. Members discussed the values associated with “minimizing/mitigating  
 159 impacts of development elsewhere”. J. Vogl clarified that this was intended to reflect the desire  
 160 to use open space as a means of limiting development. He added that he would express this  
 161 geographically by identifying large, vacant parcels of land with suitable frontage but that it was a  
 162 very subjective mapping process. Members felt the category was redundant with other values  
 163 and opted to move it to the geographic priorities bonus category.

164

165

|  | <b>Round<br/>1</b> | <b>Round<br/>2</b> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Enter # of Participants:</b>                                      |                    |                    |
| Preserve adequate drinking water<br>quality/quantity                 | 20.5               | 22.9               |
| Keeping development out of<br>floodplain areas                       | 5.0                | 4.5                |
| Preserve local agricultural land                                     | 13.5               | 13.7               |
| Keep natural views in their<br>present form                          | 10.4               | 9.6                |
| Support outdoor recreation in a<br>natural setting                   | 10.0               | 12.5               |
| Support plant and animal habitat<br>and connections between habitats | 11.7               | 11.8               |
| Preserve large, contiguous forest<br>areas                           | 10.8               | 13.3               |
| Maintain historic structures in<br>their appropriate context         | 5.2                | 5.1                |

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Minimize/mitigate impacts of development elsewhere | 5.8          | <b>0.0</b>   |
| Preserve habitat for endangered species            | 7.2          | <b>6.5</b>   |
| <i>Group Total Score</i>                           | <i>100.0</i> | <i>100.0</i> |

| <b>Geographic Priorities</b>   |  |             |
|--|--|-------------|
| Providing at least 10 acres of open space within a ten-minute walk for each Londonderry resident |  | <b>11.5</b> |
| Providing connections between large open space areas throughout town                             |  | <b>14.4</b> |

166  
167  
168 M. Speltz said the results of this process will be transformed by J. Vogl into geographic areas of  
169 every part of Londonderry. It will produce a layered map to show which pieces of land got their  
170 highest points. We will look at the generalist and the specialized areas.  
171  
172 The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M. Next month at the meeting scheduled for April 7, the  
173 SWOT analysis and maps that were generated with the information provided tonight will be  
174 discussed.  
175  
176 Respectfully submitted for Jaye Trottier,  
177  
178 Margo Lapietro  
179 Executive Assistant



Town of Londonderry, NH  
Open Space Task Force  
Public Opinion Survey

Welcome Londonderry residents,

The Town is asking for your views relative to open space purchases and priorities in Londonderry: how much you value it, why you value it, how you use it, how to protect it, and, if necessary, how much we should pay for it. What should be the town's role in protecting and maintaining open space? Which open spaces are most important?

This is your opportunity to participate in a brief survey that will help guide future spending and management decisions.

The survey is intended to help the Londonderry Open Space Task Force better understand residents' attitudes, opinions, and needs for the natural values and benefits of such open spaces as forests, agriculture and habitat for plants and animals. The benefits from these natural resources include clean water, protection from flooding, food production, outdoor recreation, and beautiful scenery, to name a few.

The questions you area about to answer seek to determine which of these natural resources and the benefits they provide are important to you, and what role the town should play in securing these benefits.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and will help determine the future of Londonderry for many years to come.

*A digital copy of this survey can be found at [www.londonderrynh.org](http://www.londonderrynh.org).  
Please complete only 1 survey.*

*Completed forms can be returned to the Londonderry Town Hall, attention:  
John Vogl, Community Development Department*



1.) Have you visited the following town conservation or recreation areas in Londonderry? If so, how often? [View a map of the areas here](#)

|   | Visited Regularly | Visit Occasionally | Visited Once | Never visited | Never heard of |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Estey Property (Old Nashua Road)  | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Kendall Pond Conservation Area (South Road)                                   | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Moose Hill/Adams Pond Easements (Mack Orchards)                               | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Morrison house (Pillsbury Road, near the Kindergarten)                        | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Musquash Conservation Area (off High Range via Hickory Hill or Faucher Roads) | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Nelson Fields (behind Central Fire Station)                                   | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Sunnycrest Farm (orchard on High Range)                                       | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| West Road Fields (West Road)  | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Merrill Orchard (north Londonderry, Old Mammoth Road)                         | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Ingersoll/Bockes Forest (Bockes Road)   | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |
| Old Railroad Trail bed (through town)   | ( )               | ( )                | ( )          | ( )           | ( )            |

2.) Are there other places you use for outdoor recreation?

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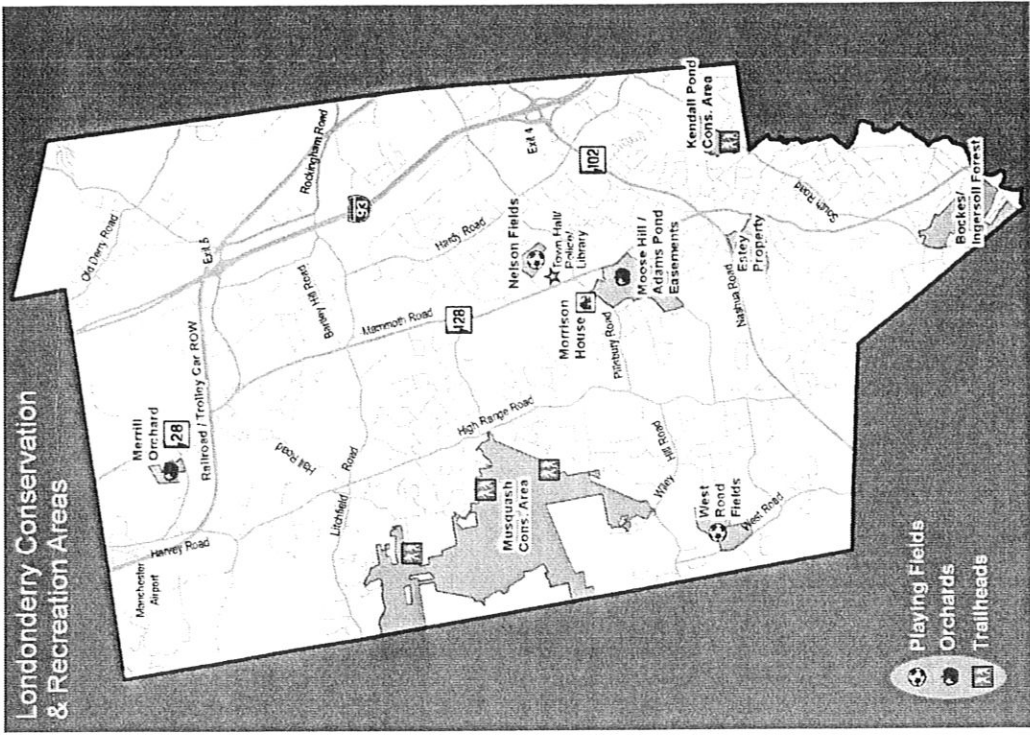
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3.) Please rank the following conservation goals in the order most important to you. Please label each item 1 through 11 with the item most important to you as #1 and the least important items #11.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve adequate drinking water quality/quantity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keeping development out of floodplain areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve local agricultural land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep natural views in their present form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Support outdoor recreation in a natural setting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Support plant and animal habitat and connections between habitats
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve large, contiguous forest areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain historic structures in their appropriate context
- \_\_\_\_\_ Minimize/mitigate impacts of development elsewhere
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve habitat for endangered species
- \_\_\_\_\_ Providing at least 10 acres of open space within a 10-minute walk for each Londonderry resident

4.) How important is it that the Town commit resources (financial, regulatory or otherwise) towards the following goals?

|   | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Only Slightly Important | Not important |
|---|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Keeping natural views in their present form                                     | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving land to store storm water and prevent flooding                       | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving land to support animal habitat & connections between habitat patches | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving large, contiguous forest blocks                                      | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Supporting outdoor recreation in a natural setting                              | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving adequate drinking water quality/quantity                             | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving land to minimize/mitigate impacts of development in town             | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving land to support local agriculture                                    | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving habitat for endangered species                                       | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |
| Preserving land to maintain historic structures in their appropriate context    | ( )            | ( )                | ( )                     | ( )           |





5.) Please rate the goals and approaches you think the Town should pursue over the next five years to preserve nature's values and benefits in Londonderry:

|  | Agree                    | Somewhat Agree           | Somewhat Disagree        | Disagree                 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Town should acquire new conservation areas in those parts of town where little currently exists  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should attempt to add to existing conservation areas  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should develop and/or encourage development of trails/access on all conservation properties | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should put more resources into monitoring/maintaining its existing conservation areas       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should stop conservation purchases for the next five years                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should resume annual funding for additional conservation purchases                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should do more to promote the locations and uses of existing conservation/cultural areas    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should add staff to maintain/monitor conservation properties or easements                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should limit development on sensitive natural habitats                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Town should strengthen land use regulations in favor of natural resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6.) Is enough being done to maintain conservation lands in Londonderry?

Yes       No       Don't know

7.) What more should be done?

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8.) What should be done differently?

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9.) Are there particular scenic views in Londonderry that you believe should be preserved as open space? (Please be as specific as you can.)

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10.) Where should money for future preservation of nature's values and benefits come from? (Check all that apply):

- Town bonds
- Land Use Change Tax
- Private donations and/or full grants
- Development penalties and/or conditions
- Matching grants (requiring local matching funds)
- Annual town operating budget
- No more money is needed

11.) Are you willing to pay more in taxes to support future conservation purchases?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

12.) Currently, the Town spends 2.7%\* of its budget on conservation. What percentage would you be willing to see it spend?

(\*includes debt service on open space bonds and existing conservation commission line items)

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13.) Are you willing to pay more in taxes to support increased stewardship of existing conservation land?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

14.) Currently, the Town spends 0.06%\* of its budget on stewardship (on maintenance/management of conservation land). What percentage would you be willing to see it spend?

(\*includes average annual spending from the years 2002 to 2009)

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15.) Do you:

- Own your own home       Rent

16.) How many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

17.) What is the source of your household's drinking water?

- Well       Manchester Water Works       Pennichuck Water Works       Don't Know

18.) Which age group are you?

- 0-19       20-34       35-54       55-74       75 and up

19.) How many school-aged children live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

20.) How long have you lived in Londonderry?

- Less than 5 years       5-10 years       11-20 years       over 20 years

21.) How long into the future do you expect to continue to live in Londonderry?

- Less than 5 years       More than 5 years       Don't Know

Thank You!

Thank you for your thoughtful responses to this survey. We value your opinions.

Please look to the Open Space Task Force section of [www.londonderrynh.org](http://www.londonderrynh.org) for more information on the Task Force and for a schedule of future meetings and minutes from past meetings. A reporting of the survey results, once they are tabulated, will be presented there.

Any additional comments can be submitted directly to John Vogl, GIS Manager/Planner at [jvogl@londonderrynh.org](mailto:jvogl@londonderrynh.org).

# TALLY SHEET

Round 1 Round 2 Round 3 Round 4

## Natures Benefits

|                          |   |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1                        | Preserve adequate drinking water quality/quantity                 |     |     |     |     |
| 2                        | Keeping development out of floodplain areas                       |     |     |     |     |
| 3                        | Preserve local agricultural land                                  |     |     |     |     |
| 4                        | Keep natural views in their present form                          |     |     |     |     |
| 5                        | Support outdoor recreation in a natural setting                   |     |     |     |     |
| 6                        | Support plant and animal habitat and connections between habitats |     |     |     |     |
| 7                        | Preserve large, contiguous forest areas                           |     |     |     |     |
| 8                        | Maintain historic structures in their appropriate context         |     |     |     |     |
| 9                        | Minimize/mitigate impacts of development elsewhere                |     |     |     |     |
| 10                       | Preserve habitat for endangered species                           |     |     |     |     |
| <i>Group Total Score</i> |   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

## Geographic Priorities

|                          |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                          | Providing at least 10 acres of open space within a ten-minute walk for each Londonderry resident |  |  |  |  |
|                          | Providing connections between large open space areas throughout town                             |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Group Bonus Score</i> |  |  |  |  |  |