



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Minutes

1 Present: Marge Badois, Chair
2 Gene Harrington, Vice Chair
3 Mike Considine, Member
4 Kellie Walsh, Member
5 Mike Speltz, Alternate Member
6 Roger Fillio, Alternate Member
7

8 Not Present: Deb Lievens, Member; Paul Nickerson, Member; Ben LaBrecque (Resigning), Member;
9 Margaret Harrington, Alternate Member
10

11 M. Badois called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She appointed M. Speltz to vote for B. LaBrecque, and R.
12 Fillio to vote for D. Lievens. She also stated that because of B. LaBrecque's schedule, he will be resigning, and
13 that an opening for a new member will be posted.
14

15 Musquash Management Plan – Town Forester Charlie Moreno presented a potential comprehensive natural
16 resources plan. Objectives included ecological assessment, public use, mapping, timber inventory and
17 harvesting, management objectives, recommendations, and implementation (see Attachment #2). He stated:

- 18 - His plan will include the 1,000+ contiguous acres of the Town's conservation land along with any new non-
19 contiguous parcels;
- 20 - A detailed baseline study will be completed to include wetlands, soils, and habitats;
- 21 - The plan will show the area "as it is today, why it is the way it is, and where it's naturally going";
- 22 - He will be interfacing the study with New Hampshire Fish & Game along with other partnering agencies to
23 protect species of concern;
- 24 - It would include construction of detailed template maps;
- 25 - He could begin work this fall with a target completion date of this winter, or early next spring;
- 26 - He will submit three plans to the Commission at the June 23, 2015 meeting, which will include different cost
27 structures.
28

29 M. Speltz will give C. Moreno an updated conservation parcel list along with the latest recreational study. He
30 and the other Commissioners agreed that the future key uses for the plan would be to use it as a resource to:

- 31 - Identify impacts;
- 32 - Make decisions and/or recommendations;
- 33 - Educate the public and identify other areas for public use.
34

35 Eversource and New England Power (National Grid) - Conditional Use Permit Request associated with the
36 Merrimack Valley Reliability Project - Sherrie Trefry, Director of Energy Services for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
37 (VHB) and Elizabeth LaRocca, Community Relations-Southern Region for Eversource presented this application
38 for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for geotechnical borings associated with the design of the Merrimack Valley
39 Reliability Project (MVRP). A 345 kilovolt transmission line is proposed from the Eversource substation at Scobie
40 Pond to a National Grid substation in Tewksbury, MA (see Attachment #1). According to S. Trefry and E.
41 LaRocca:

- 42 - E. LaRocca has made presentations to the Town Council and Planning Board and Eversource held an open
43 house in Londonderry;



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Minutes

- 44 - The project will be filed with the NH Site Evaluation Committee by the end of June. This Committee will also
45 aid in the design of the foundations of the structures for the borings. State and local wetland applications
46 have been filed, and wetland delineations have been completed. These permits will be needed due to direct
47 impacts to emergent marsh and wetland areas in Londonderry, which will be temporary;
- 48 - Toward the end of August, access will be used on Eversource's existing right-of-way easement. Minimal
49 clearing and disturbance will be done, swamp and wetland matting and crossings will be put down and then
50 removed, equipment will be used on low-impact tracks, small probes will be mainly used, larger drill trucks
51 will only be used at angle and dead end structures, there will be no impact to vernal pools, erosion control
52 barriers will be installed, and no drilling spoils will be left;
- 53 - The proposed CUP meets all zoning ordinance criteria and was filed on May 14;
- 54 - The project will start in 2016 and will be in service by 2017;
- 55 - The towers will look similar to the H-frames that already exist. There will 74 new steel structures with an
56 average height of 88 feet;
- 57 - Eversource and National Grid are still working with New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Natural Heritage
58 Bureau regarding rare species;
- 59 - Certified letters have been sent to land owners where any impact(s) to wetlands may occur;
- 60 - VHB will be responsible for overseeing contractor compliance;
- 61 - Additional open houses will be held for public input and comments;
- 62 - When the CUP for the actual project is being filed, any recommendations from the Commission will need to
63 be made directly through the SEC.

64
65 The Dredge and Fill (D+F) application for the geotechnical borings was then reviewed by the Commission. There
66 were no comments on the D+F application. **G. Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to send a
67 letter to the Planning Board stating the Commission has no objection to the Conditional Use Permit Request
68 associated with the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 6-
69 0-0.**

70
71 Musquash Parking (Hickory Hill Entrance) - Since E. Larocca of Eversource Energy was present to discuss a
72 Conditional Use Permit request (see above), M. Speltz and M. Considine asked her if Eversource would
73 consider allowing the Commission to expand their parking lot at the Hickory Hill entrance to the Musquash.
74 They inquired about possibly pushing the parking area back onto Eversource's right-of-way. E. LaRocca will
75 bring their request to Chris Marshall, who she said is the appropriate project outreach contact.

76
77 Musquash Target Shooting

78 M. Considine stated he continues to work with others to address this ongoing issue. He stated the Musquash
79 Target Shooting Risk Force report is completed and will be submitted to the Town Council.

80
81 Musquash Signage - M. Badois will order 50 plain steel signs for the Musquash Conservation Area. She will place
82 6-year rated lettering on the signs. M. Considine will give M. Badois his color choice. R. Fillio will assist her with
83 the hole drilling on the signs. M. Considine stated he will get the proper screws and that the signs will be placed
84 either on posts, or if there is no post, on trees. **G. Harrington made a motion to appropriate up to \$200.00 to
85 expend for Musquash signs from the line item budget. R. Fillio seconded the motion. The motion was
86 approved, 6-0-0.**



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Minutes

87

88 COD Signage - M. Badois stated Conservation Overlay District (COD) wetland buffer signs were reordered
89 recently and paid for by the Town. She stated the signs will be kept in the Planning & Economic Development
90 department and can be purchased by landowners as needed.

91

92 New England Cottontail Rabbit - M. Speltz and M. Considine stated that at this time there will be no new
93 habitats created due to the target shooting issues, and that recommendations will be forthcoming from a
94 separate task force to Town Council. The Commission agreed that the success of the rabbits depends on the
95 success of dealing with the target shooters, and that NH Fish and Game will need to be updated on this
96 finding. M. Badois stated she is awaiting cost proposals from NH F&G regarding their top three choices for
97 future cuts.

98

99 Monitoring - M. Badois stated that last week she spoke with Town Manager, Kevin Smith regarding a proposal
100 for hiring a new person to perform monitoring and forest ranger type duties. She said K. Smith was open to the
101 new position, and that he suggested it be put to vote for a Town-paid permanent position to be shared with the
102 Commission. M. Speltz brought a list of Londonderry Conservation Land Steward Labor Calculations (see
103 Attachment #3) for review. He stated he will use his list to draft a job description. Commissioners agreed to
104 forward their comments on the description to Staff. They also agreed to present and review the description at
105 the June 23, 2015 meeting. M. Badois said it would not include the recreation fields, as those fields are covered
106 by the Recreation Department.

107

108 Invoices for Invasive Species Removal - Staff will check with D. Lievens to determine whether any invoices have
109 been submitted for invasive species removal work

110 State of New Hampshire Wetlands Council Report – Proposed Revisions to Wetlands - Per G. Harrington, D.
111 Lievens will need to update the Commission. M. Badois saved this topic to a future meeting.

112 Carousel/Tyler Easement List - M. Speltz will work with Administrative Staff to update the Carousel/Tyler
113 mailing list. Staff will coordinate with the Assessing Department to determine exactly which data fields can be
114 accessed to generate the address labels. The Commission is also aware that Staff will need their assistance with
115 completing the mailing.

116 Design Review Committee -

- 117 1. Stage Crossing Subdivision Plan (Map 12 Lot 137) - No comments.
118 2. 2 Boyd Road Subdivision Plan (Map 3 Lot 170) - No comments.
119 3. 8 Mohawk Drive Change of Use (Map 6 Lot 37) - No comments.

120

121 Miscellaneous -

- 122 1. M. Badois noted the proposed construction of a 12,000 square foot building and an 11,000 salt shed
123 on Kendall Pond Road in Derry bordering the Londonderry Town line. M. Speltz will attempt to attend
124 Derry's Planning Board meeting in Derry on June, 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM.
125 2. G. Harrington noted a Wetland Permit by Notification at 54 Alexander Road for maintenance dredging
126 of an existing detention pond.



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Minutes

127 3. M. Badois gave M. Speltz information received by the Department of Transportation regarding the
128 I-93 project for his review. G. Harrington also inquired about how much money was due back to the
129 Town for the culvert rehabilitation program which is supposed to be funded state wide.
130

131 April 28, 2015 Minutes - Per K. Walsh, line 10 on the first page should be corrected to say she is a full member.

132 **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the April 28, 2015 minutes as amended. M. Considine seconded.**

133 **The motion was approved, 5-0-1** with K. Walsh abstaining she did not attend the meeting. Per G.

134 Harrington, line 10 on the first page of the non-public session minutes should be corrected to say K. Walsh is a

135 full member. M. Badois will also follow up with K. Smith on one outstanding item. **G. Harrington made a**

136 **motion to accept the minutes of the Non-Public Session of April 28, 2015 as amended. M. Considine**

137 **seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 5-0-1** with K. Walsh abstaining she did not attend the

138 meeting.
139

140

140 **M. Speltz made a motion to adjourn. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

141

142 The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

143

144 Respectfully submitted by

145

146 Nicole Doolan, Planning & Economic Development Department Secretary

**Application for a Conservation Overlay District Conditional Use Permit
Form A - For a Use permitted by Conditional Use Permit**


Conditional Use permit is as part of a: Site Plan Subdivision

I. General Information:

A. Name of Project: Geotechnical Borings in Preparation for the MVRP

B. Location of Project: Existing Electric Transmission Right-of-Way N/A N/A
(Street) (Map #) (Lot #)

C. Applicant:
Name: Laura Games
Address: Public Services of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
13 Legends Drive
Phone: Hooksett, NH 03106
Fax: Phone: 603-634-2906; Fax: 603-669-4239

Signature: 

II. Required Information:

- Plans showing existing and proposed conditions.
- Wetland delineation certified by a Certified Wetlands Scientist and mapped by a licensed land surveyor.
- Areas on plans highlighted to show areas where conditional use permit is sought
- Narrative description of project and conditional use permit request.
- Criteria for conditional use permit described (see below).

III. Optional Information:

- Aerial Photographs
- Site Photographs

IV. Conditional Use Permit Criteria

Address, in the provided boxes, the following criteria in accordance with Section 2.6.3 of the Zoning Ordinance:

1. The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the CO District.

Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (PSNH) proposes to conduct geotechnical borings at locations of proposed utility structures along an existing electric transmission right-of-way (ROW) within portions of the Conservation Overlay District in the Town of Londonderry. The proposed geotechnical boring work is necessary to provide geotechnical data needed to complete the engineering phase of the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (MVRP) and determine an accurate bid for construction materials. The purpose of the MVRP is to significantly enhance the reliability of electrical transmission services to the Merrimack Valley region. The MVRP will eliminate potential overloads on several components of the current transmission system that could be experienced under certain contingency conditions. The Project will provide resiliency and increased system flexibility to the region's transmission infrastructure in order to deliver reliable electric service to customers in the area. In doing so, the MVRP will ensure continued compliance with applicable federal and regional transmission system reliability standards.

2. Design and construction materials will be such as to minimize impact upon the wetlands and will include restoration of the site consistent with the permitted use.

The proposed geotechnical boring work will be conducted in accordance to NHDES Wetlands Rule Env-Wt. 202.05(n) which specifically addresses the minimization of impacts to wetlands and surface waters while conducting geotechnical investigations. In addition, a NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill Permit is being submitted to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau to address temporary impacts to emergent wetlands located along the Project ROW within the Town of Londonderry associated with the proposed boring work. The geotechnical work will only involve temporary wetland impacts as a result of the placement of matting surrounding proposed structure locations within wetlands, the physical drilling itself at the structure location, and where equipment access is needed across subject wetland areas to reach proposed structure locations where geotechnical boring will take place. All locations where the geotechnical borings are to be completed will be reached utilizing existing ROW access roads. The BMP's that will be implemented during geotechnical boring work include the use of swamp mats (as described above) and erosion control barriers along the edges of access roads at the entrances to wetlands. Low pressure track rigged equipment will be used to limit travel impacts between proposed structure locations in addition to swamp mats. No tree clearing is necessary for access, however the equipment will drive over existing vegetation in the drilling area and if needed shrubs may be pushed down or cut away from the work area by hand. Crews will be re-circulating drilling fluids in a contained tub, therefore no drilling spoils will be left on site. As previously mentioned, if any soil is left after the boring hole is backfilled, it will be spread in an upland area outside of NHDES Wetlands Bureau jurisdiction. Upon the completion of drilling, any rutted areas will be re-graded and smoothed so they will naturally re-vegetate during the growing season. Impact numbers along access roads and at proposed structure locations are conservatively estimated and likely indicate a greater impact than what will occur.

3. There is no feasible alternative route on land controlled by the applicant that does not cross the CO District nor has less detrimental impact upon the wetlands. Nothing in this section shall limit the applicant from exploring alternatives with abutting property owners:

Since the proposed work is entirely located within an existing electric transmission ROW, access to the geotechnical boring locations will be gained by utilizing existing ROW access roads and access points. By doing so, the amount of direct temporary impacts to wetlands has been dramatically reduced. Additionally, significant tree clearing, road building and impacts to private property that would likely result from pursuing alternative approaches to the Project ROW will be avoided. Proposed access routes to and within the existing Project ROW were selected over the course of several field visits by VHB, project engineers and construction and forestry personnel. Access points to the Project ROW originate from public roadways which run parallel to or perpendicularly intersect the ROW in various locations. Access points and exact access routes within the limits of the Project ROW were designed to avoid and minimize wetland and stream crossings to the maximum extent practical. Wooden swamp mats will be used at wetland and stream crossings and surrounding new structure installations that are within or in close proximity to wetlands and/or streams.

4. Economic advantage is not the sole reason for the proposed location of the construction:

The geotechnical boring work is being conducted in support of completion of engineering phase planning for the MVRP. A study performed in 2008 by ISO-NE revealed that the current electric transmission infrastructure within the Merrimack Valley region is inadequate to provide reliable power. The electric system in this area is heavily used and tightly integrated. Under stressful operating conditions (e.g., at times of peak customer demand and limited electric generation), key elements of the transmission system in the Merrimack Valley would be overloaded or vulnerable to overloads under certain contingency conditions. Therefore, it was determined that a solution was required to address these deficiencies. As a result of the ISO-NE process, it was determined that additional transmission infrastructure is required to meet this need. The MVRP is but one of the major independent components of a plan proposed by ISO-NE to resolve identified performance inadequacies affecting the transmission system.

5. Square Footage of Wetland Impacts: 51,271 (Temporary)
6. Square footage of Buffer Impacts: 33,616 (Temporary Wetland); 7,213 (Temporary Stream)

Musquash Conservation Area Natural Resources Management Plan

Content:

- *Comprehensive ecological assessment:*
 - 1) Forest
 - a) Composition, structure, disturbance history, current condition
 - 2) Wildlife
 - a) Core habitats: Upland forest, early-successional areas, Wetlands, etc.
 - b) Vernal pools, wetlands
 - c) Interface with NH Wildlife Action Plan/Species of Concern
 - d) Interface with Blandings Turtle conservation plan
 - 3) Wetlands
 - a) Wetland types
 - b) Property hydrology
 - 4) Soils
 - 5) Natural Communities
- *Public use:* Assessment/concerns/opportunities/management
- *Mapping:*
 - a) Physical/Natural features
 - b) Cover (forest) types
 - c) Recommendations/Planning maps
 - d) Other (Soils, Wildlife Habitats, Management Template Map, etc.)
- Timber inventory
- Management objectives – process/definition
- Detailed recommendations
 - 1) Access
 - 2) Silvicultural: Forest health, Wildlife Habitat
 - 3) Recreational
 - 4) Water quality, Protection of water resource features
 - 5) Other
- Implementation: Schedule, Logistics, Financial Projections

Londonderry Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2015 - Attachment #3

Londonderry Conservation Land Steward Labor Calculations

Assumptions:	Value	Units	
New baselines per year	1.0	each	
"Catch up" baselines per year	0.0	each	Contract seperately
Hours per baseline	15.0	hours	
Multi-parcel and large, complex easements held	14.0	each	
Simple easements held	57.0	each	
Hours to monitor complex easement	4.0	hours	
Hours to monitor simple easement	1.0	hours	
Hours per complex monitoring report	1.0	hours	
Hours per simple monitoring report	0.3	hours	
Disputes per year	1.0	each	
Hours per dispute (land steward only)	4.0	hours	
Town owned conservation parcels	55.0	each	
Hours per town owned cons. Parcel	1.0	hours	
New town owned purchases per year	1.0	each	
Hours per hazardous materials check	4.0	hours	
Coordination hours per month (CC, staff)	6.0	hours	
Patrol hours per week (annual ave.)	4.0	hours	
Deed restricted parcels (non-cons. Land)	66.0	each	
Hours monitoring per deed restricted parcel	0.5	hours	
Hours research per deed restricted parcel	0.5	hours	
Hours record maintainance/research per record	0.5	hours	

Task (see job description)	Hours	Comment
Meet with CE owners		Included in monitoring
Prepare baselines	15.0	
Maintain records	97.0	
Hazardous materials assessments	8.0	
Easement monitoring/dispute resolution	121.0	
Document prep for monitoring	31.1	
Coordinate with CC and town staff	72.0	
Coordinate with town forester on mgmt plans		Included in line above
Check town-owned/eased land for illegal use	208.0	
Develop a database of deed restrictions	0.0	Contracted separately
Report on activities		Included in coordination

Total annual hours for Conservation Comm. 552.1

Total annual hours for parks/fields/town common

Total annual hours for Land Steward 552.1