



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, April 22, 2014
Minutes

1 Present: Deb Lievens; Gene Harrington; Mike Considine; Truda Bloom; Marge Badois; Mike Speltz,
2 alternate; and Kellie Walsh, alternate

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

5
6 Conservation funds- D. Lievens reported that the Town Attorney has agreed that the use of Land Use
7 Change Tax funds, according to RSA 36:A, does include stewardship activities and conservation land
8 management (see December 10, 2013 and January 14, 2014 minutes). Thus the creation of an
9 Outdoor Recreation Guide, which began in July of 2013 but was put on hold by December because of
10 this issue, can resume with funding from the Open Space Protection Fund (see next topic).

11
12 Outdoor Recreation Guide- The Town's Economic Development Contractor Stuart Arnett of the Arnett
13 Development Group (ADG) provided an update to the Commission on this recreation guide that was put
14 on hold at the end of 2013 (see above). A recent meeting between D. Lievens, M. Speltz and S. Arnett
15 resulted in modifications to the scope of work and therefore the cost for the remainder of the project
16 (see Attachment #1). What was going to cost \$28,000 will now cost \$18,400 because several aspects
17 have either been moved off to a future date or will be performed by Town staff and interested
18 Commissioners. Saucier and Flynn will again be subcontracted by ADG to complete the work, which
19 could be completed by July, in time for any identified capital improvement project requests to be
20 submitted to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee. Fifteen sites have been identified (see
21 Attachment #2), including those which were a part of the beta test in the southern end of town. S.
22 Arnett explained that a few of the remaining sites may not require much scrutiny if it is found they are
23 not appropriate for recreational purposes (e.g. protected land around the Little Cohas Brook) or are
24 landlocked by private land. D. Lievens encouraged Commissioners to take seasonal photos whenever
25 visiting any of the properties to add to the associated website being created.

26 **T. Bloom made a motion to continue with the creation of the Outdoor Recreation Guide as**
27 **proposed, and to expend an amount not to exceed \$18,400 from the Open Space Protection Fund to**
28 **fund it. M. Considine seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

29
30 Meeting schedule- D. Lievens reported that the Town Manager and Town Planner informed her that
31 Town staff will only be available for the second monthly Commission meeting due to an overall staffing
32 shortage. There is hope that supplemental help can be offered, but that would not happen until the
33 new fiscal year in July at the earliest. It was decided at the meeting with the Town Manager and Town
34 Planner that for the remainder of this fiscal year, the Commission would attempt to hold only their
35 second monthly meeting. D. Lievens added, however, that if and when development activity increases,
36 having only one monthly meeting may be too constraining. Planning Department staff offered to direct
37 developers to the Commission as soon as they become aware of any relative issues in order to give both
38 parties an adequate amount of time to deal with any concerns. Timeliness regarding such situations as
39 the 21-day period the Commission has under State law to intervene on the matter of a wetland Dredge
40 and Fill application will have to be considered, however D. Lievens noted that holding special meetings
41 is another option the Commission would have.



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Town Forest (Invasive Species)- In the fall of 2013, D. Lievens contacted licensed invasive species specialist Prescott Towle about continuing the effort to removed Oriental Bittersweet from the Town Forest in 2014 (see March 25, 2014 minutes). P. Towle informed D. Lievens that he will be assessing the current condition as soon as the bittersweet begins growing and then providing an estimate as well as his opinion on how best to approach the situation. She said there are still funds remaining from the sale of timber from the last selective cut in the Town Forest to pay for the bittersweet removal. M. Speltz noted that he recently discovered a stand approximately 50 feet in diameter of the invasive species Japanese Barberry in the Town Forest. He suggested having P. Towle provide an estimate to remove that as well.

Later on in the meeting, resident and Heritage Commission alternate member Ann Chiampa asked if the Commission would entertain her proposal for a new Town Forest Trail. She also asked if the existing trail could be made handicap accessible. D. Lievens said the Commission is not opposed to either idea, however the best course of action would be to present the ideas to Londonderry Trailways who would then make a presentation to the Commission.

Invasive plant species (Phragmites)- D. Lievens reported that entomologist Mike Morrison, who was hired by the Commission to remove Phragmites from the Town owned property on map 6 lot 113, has reapplied for the requisite State wetlands permit so that he may continue his work eradicate the invasive species. At the March 25 meeting, D. Lievens had stated she was unsure if any removal of dead vegetation had taken place during the winter months as planned. She has since learned that M. Morrison opted instead to gauge from the new growth this spring exactly how the colonies have been affected so far and apply the herbicide based on those findings at a time when they are 'most vulnerable.' Correspondence from M. Morrison's office indicated that any additional treatment is covered under the current contract and there will be no additional cost to the Town.

Monitoring- At the March 25, 2014 meeting, M. Speltz had suggested staff investigate whether the Department of Environmental Services (DES) received a copy of the Ingersoll monitoring reports from the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for map 1, lot 1 and lot 3-2 since the land was conserved with funding from the DES Water Supply Land Protection Program. Staff has since informed D. Lievens that the reports were submitted to the appropriate agencies by RCCD.

Monitoring coordinator T. Bloom requested Commissioners, who were all previously assigned the monitoring of specific conservation easements, perform at least one inspection before the next meeting. She also recommended that when contacting the individual property owners about access, that they invite them to join the site walk.

M. Speltz provided an update regarding the 26 easements that were part of the Carousel and Tyler Estates developments (Map 5, Lots 31 and 21; see September 24, October 8, and October 22, 2013 minutes), which were mandated by the State Wetlands Bureau as mitigation for wetland impacts associated with the developments. M. Speltz said his in-depth research has shown that while the easements are shown on the respective subdivision plans, none of the individual property deeds indicate the existence of any conservation easements, nor are there any conservation easement



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83 deeds recorded for either development. The only language found in the property deeds that would
84 be relevant is the general stipulation that they are “subject to easements of record.” In 2003, the
85 Department of Environmental Services (DES) sent letters to the individual developers requesting that
86 the conservation easement deeds that were a part of the subdivision approvals be put in place. One
87 of those developers has since been administratively dissolved. M. Speltz said he would be visiting DES
88 to find out what can be done at this point, noting that the property owners in both developments are
89 probably not aware that any of their land is under a conservation easement. He said he will also be
90 asking one or more of the owners to inspect the portion of their properties under easement to
91 determine whether any associated monumentation exists. Recording of the easement deeds will
92 incur fees and it is not yet clear who would be responsible for those costs. M. Speltz said the State
93 Attorney General may have to ultimately rule on the matter.

94 M. Speltz reported that he also found a letter from DES similar to those noted above, asking
95 the Town to fulfill its obligation to create an easement deed for land on West Road. He said he would
96 follow up on the matter.

97
98 Wetlands at Harriet Court- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently contacted the
99 Commission to inform them that a wetland near Harriet Court (in the Nevins development) would be
100 crossed with boring equipment in order to perform work on a monitoring well associated with the
101 nearby Tinkham Garage Superfund Site. G. Harrington verified first with the State Wetlands Bureau that
102 the EPA would not be required to obtain a permit of any kind. He then visited the site along with DES
103 and EPA employees and described the crossing as being approximately 60 to 70 feet long. He said there
104 did not appear to be any issues, noting that one red maple tree had to be cut down, which he did not
105 feel was a significant impact since it was located in a Red Maple wetland.

106
107 Flax Field wetland management- D. Lievens asked Commissioners for their input regarding the ongoing
108 management of the flax field wetland on map 6 lot 18, including the removal of the invasive species
109 Purple Loosestrife and the protection of the rare plant species found there. Galerucella beetles, which
110 feed exclusively on Purple Loosestrife, were introduced there several years ago but the colony may
111 have been threatened by the annual mowing that takes place there. D. Lievens said the mowing may
112 not have taken place this past fall, meaning the beetles may have fared better and will continue to
113 offset the growth of the Loosestrife. Volunteers are also available from the New England Wildflower
114 Society to help manually remove the Loosestrife during the month of July as they have in past years.
115 M. Speltz suggested investigating conditions in June, especially with regard to the beetles and the rare
116 plants, and reporting back to the Commission at that time.

117
118 Musquash- D. Lievens and M. Considine reported on several topics pertaining to the Musquash
119 Conservation Area:

- 120
121 1. The voluntary group ALERT (A Londonderry Emergency Response Team) recently performed
122 some training exercises in the Musquash. D. Lievens asked if ALERT had contacted anyone
123 from the Commission and suggested the Commission should be contacted in the future in the



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124 event, for example, individuals will be going off the trails and potentially impacting ground
125 nesting birds, vernal pools, etc. M. Considine said ALERT has trained in the Musquash in the
126 past and he was not aware that they went off the trails. D. Lievens volunteered to contact
127 former Conservation Commissioner and ALERT team member George Herrmann about the
128 issue.

129
130 2. The Wellness Committee Chairman of New England Document Systems contacted D. Lievens
131 about whether dogs are allowed in the Musquash since his company would like to use the
132 Musquash trails for exercise purposes. D. Lievens replied that dogs are allowed but asked that
133 they be kept on a leash to avoid impacts to wildlife and habitat.

134
135 3. Heidi Holman of NH Fish and Game and D. Lievens inspected the area cleared in the
136 Musquash to create habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail. D. Lievens predicted
137 the area will fill in well with new growth based on the types of vegetation she encountered. H.
138 Holman has offered to host a walk of the area for public outreach purposes. D. Lievens said
139 she would contact the Cable Access Center to see if they can rerun the program recorded at
140 the end of 2012 which explained to residents the purpose of the cleared area, i.e. the creation
141 of new habitat for the Cottontail.

142
143 4. M. Considine informed Commissioners that he had posted the Musquash for mud season,
144 which he said proved effective. The signs have all since been removed.

145
146 5. M. Considine announced that the first trail maintenance day of the spring/summer season
147 will take place on May 3 and then the first Saturday of each month thereafter until the first
148 snowfall, with the possible exception of Fourth of July weekend. The main tasks will include
149 rerouting of trails out of wet areas and bridge building.

150
151 6. M. Considine relayed that a Londonderry Boy Scout has expressed an interest in performing
152 an Eagle project in the Musquash. He said he has a possible task in mind for the Scout
153 regarding a new trail, but that regardless, the Scout will arrange to present his idea to the
154 Commission.

155
156 7. M. Considine stated there was a recent report of fishing line being stretched across a trail in
157 the Musquash at a height of approximately four and a half feet, although it is unknown who
158 made the initial report. He said he happened to be on all of the Musquash trails over the
159 weekend in question and did not come across any fishing line, nor has any been found since.
160 M. Speltz advised making the Police aware of it in case there is another report.

161
162 8. M. Considine reported that the gate at Alexander Road was taken down, apparently by the
163 user of an ATV vehicle to gain access to the Musquash. He has since put the gate back up and
164 said he will watch the area.



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166 9. M. Considine stated that the beaver dam at the end of Faucher Road that had been
167 dismantled at the end of 2013 by several Commissioners is being built back up again by beavers
168 (see November 26, 2013 minutes). G. Harrington said that as long as the water continues to
169 flow freely, it was not necessary to begin dismantling it again.
170

171 Saving Special Places- M. Badois said this annual event, which took place on April 5 at the Laconia
172 Middle School, was very well attended.
173

174 Climate change and resiliency- M. Speltz presented three maps generated by the Nature Conservancy
175 demonstrating the ability of surrounding towns to withstand the effects of climate change, thereby
176 identifying where conservation efforts should be focused to protect the most resilient land. Two key
177 factors are demonstrated on two of the maps, one showing landform variety and the other displaying
178 wetland density. Londonderry has a lack of the former and is fairly rich in the latter. The third map
179 assesses overall land resiliency using the two factors along with 10 others. Other than a small area
180 around Beaver Brook in the southeast corner of town, Londonderry is below average in terms of being
181 resistant to the effects of climate change. He offered the maps to staff so that they may be kept at
182 the Town Offices.
183

184 Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund and Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
185 (LCHIP) funding - M. Speltz announced that roughly \$1 million in both ARM and LCHIP grant funds are
186 available courtesy of NH DES and LCHIP respectively. Preliminary ARM applications are due within
187 weeks. Since the Commission has the matching funds needed, M. Speltz said the challenge would be
188 to find a willing landowner. He offered to meet with the Town GIS Manager/Comprehensive Planner
189 to locate worthy candidates for each and asked Commissioners for their ideas as well. He noted that
190 approval from the Town Council may be required to apply for either.
191

192 State mitigation land in south Londonderry- Resident Ray Breslin asked if State owned land in
193 Londonderry bordering Beaver Brook that was preserved as mitigation for the impacts of the
194 expansion of I-93 could eventually be owned by the Town. He described the area as a "gem" that
195 should be utilized by the public. M. Speltz said there is a process for the State to divest land, but
196 there is no guarantee the Town would then receive it. There is also the complicating factor that with
197 federal funds involved, there may be restrictions placed on the land by the Federal Department of
198 Transportation. D. Lievens suggested that it might still be possible to request such things as walking
199 trails, especially those that might connect to trails on the Town's Kendall Pond Conservation Area. M.
200 Speltz said the ideal situation would actually be for the State to continue to own and manage the land
201 while the public has access to it once the mitigation work is complete.
202

203 Town conservation land map- R. Breslin asked if a more recent version of the Town conservation land
204 map is available since the one on the Town website is dated 2010. Commissioners explained that the
205 map has not changed since 2008 with the exception of the acquisition of the Hicks property on map 6



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206 lot 2-1. M. Speltz suggested using the GIS Map Tools on the website which are kept current and have
207 a layer that can be turned on to show conservation land.
208

209 DES Listening Session- K. Walsh announced that the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
210 will be hosting a DES Listening Session on April 24 from 6 to 8 PM. She invited Commissioners to
211 attend, particularly if they are interested in learning about the various processes and projects of the
212 Wetlands Bureau.
213

214 March 25, 2014 minutes- **T. Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014**
215 **public session as written. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1** with M. Badois
216 abstaining as she had not attended the meeting.
217

218 **M. Speltz made motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**
219

220 The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.
221

222 Respectfully submitted,
223

224
225 Jaye Trottier
226 Associate Planner

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - April 22, 2014 - Attachment #1

Londonderry Outdoor Recreation Guide

Proposed Scope of Work

PHASE: Mapping Phase

Task	Description	Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²	Contractor Hours	Budget Estimate	Original Budget Estimate
1	Kick-off Worksession					
	Participants	v	v			
	· Review and Refine Project Intent ^{1'2'3'4'5}					
	· Clarify Permitted uses on Conservation Land in General ^{1'2'3'4'5}					
	· Identify Site Specific Limitations if Different than General ^{1'2'3'4'5}	1	1	6	\$600	\$800
	(supplement with Deed Research)					
	· Identify Current Conservation Areas to Include in Guide (based on allowed accessibility, legal & physical)					
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			
2	Site Investigation*					
	Participants					
	· Deed and Permitted Use Research ^{4'5}					
	· Inventory Prospective Sites (less emphasis on established sites) ⁴					
	· Denote Critical Landmarks ⁴			72	\$7,200	\$10,400
	· Create Photo Album ^{2'4}					
	· Locate Points of Interest ⁴					
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			
3	Project Worksession					
	Participants	v	v			
	· Review Collected Data ^{1'2'3'4'5}					
	· Confirms Areas to include in Reception Guide ^{1'2'3'4'5}	1	1	6	\$600	\$800
	· Confirm Permitted Uses for each area ^{1'2'3'4'5}					
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			
4	Mapping & Landing Pages					
	Participants	v				
	· Using 8 1/2 x 11 format, develop map for each area ²					
	· Develop individual landing pages ^{2'3}	4		60	\$6,000	\$11,000
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			
5	Background Stewardship Report					
	Participants	v	v			
	· Develop stewardship report					
		1	1	24	\$2,400	\$2,400
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			
6	Project Worksession					
	Participants	v	v			
	· Review all mapping ^{1'2'3'4'5}					
	· Review landing pages ^{1'2'3'4'5}	1	1	8	\$800	\$800
		Town Staff ¹	Con Comm ²			

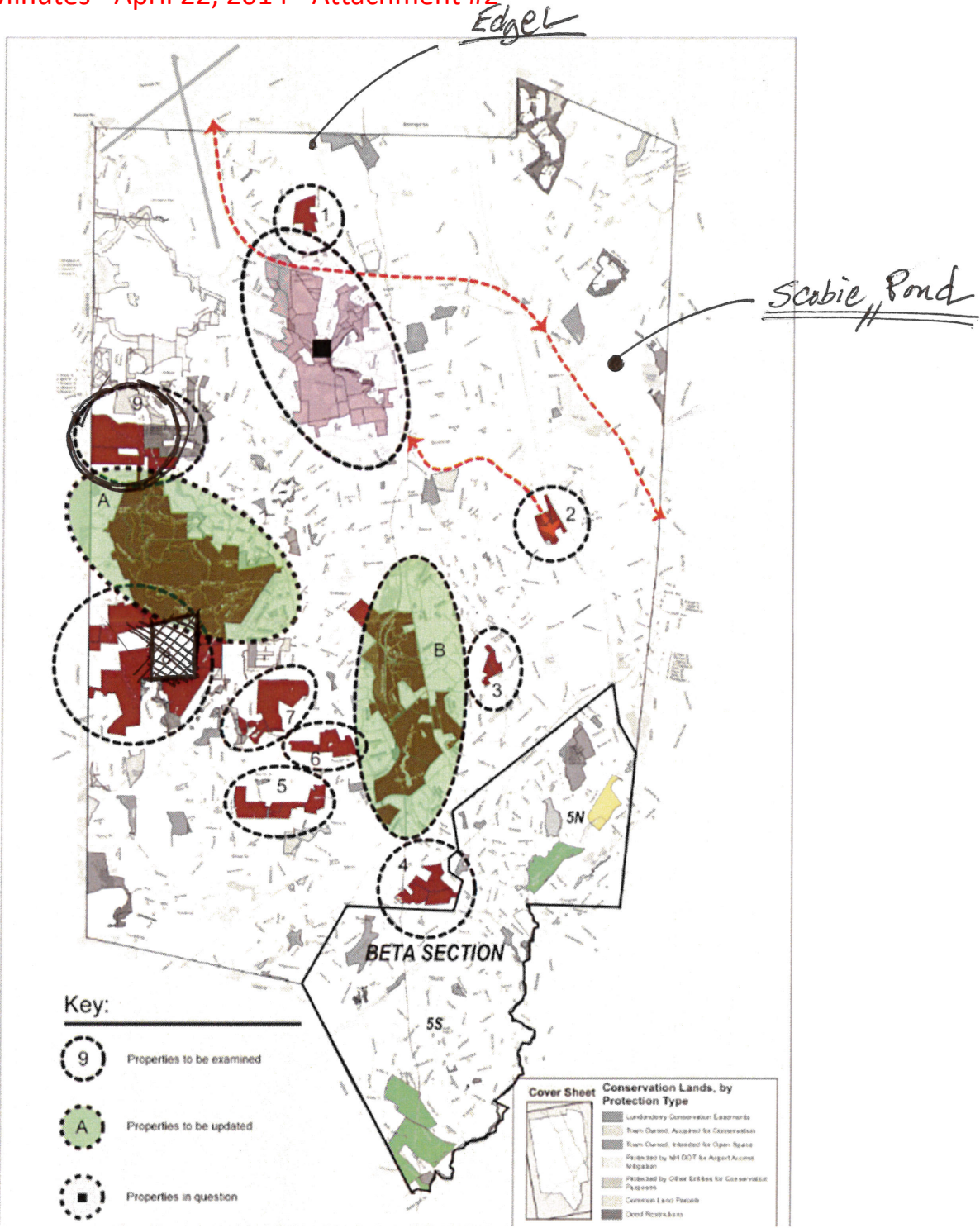
7	Upload Information to Website				
	Participants	v			
	· Upload Collected Information to Town Website ¹⁴	8	8	\$800	\$1,800
	Totals		184		
	Rate				
	Total Est Fee		184	\$18,400	\$28,000

To arrive at this revised budget ADG made the following adjustments:

- 1) Significantly reduced the amount of Deed Research, which we may have over emphasized in the Beta Study.
- 2) Reduced the amount of site investigation time by making the following assumptions:
 - a) Will focus primarily on unused or underutilized properties first; if time and budget allows we can then turn our focus to established areas.
 - b) Eliminated the GPS positioning component, we will record information as we did in the Beta project and Map new trails and layouts as best we can,utilizing local maps and topographic data on hand.
 - c) Looking to the conservation committee or other volunteers to help photographically document the sites.
- 3) Significantly reduced the time allocated to mapping and development of landing pages on the assumption that we can develop a standard template and can turn to the Town of the ConCom for voluteer assistance.

Stuart Arnett, Arnett Development Group

Date



(Revised based on discussion at April 22, 2014 meeting)

Areas to be Reviewed (Town-wide) for the Londonderry Open Space Management Plan. April, 2014

