

# Londonderry Conservation Commission Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Minutes

Present: Deb Lievens; Gene Harrington; Mike Considine; Paul Nickerson; Truda Bloom; and Marge Badois

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

3 4 5

> 6 7

> 8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

1

2

Mill Pond Subdivision Walking Trails and Recreation Fields (Brook Hollow Corp)- Builder Bob LaMontagne and Dana Finn of LaMontagne Brothers (a/k/a/ Brook Hollow Corporation) presented a request and petition from the residents of the Mill Pond Subdivision (Map 18 Lot 13) regarding removal of the walking trails and recreational fields from the recorded subdivision plan. When the plan was signed in 1999, the Planning Board requested that non-public walking trails be included for the benefit of the residents. Trails associated with Phase I of the development were created, but re-vegetated over time due to lack of use by the residents. When LaMontagne Builders announced to residents in 2012 that construction of additional trails as well as the recreation fields would commence, opposition came from the Homeowner's Association based on privacy and security issues (see Attachment #1). Residents were also not in favor of an increase in their association fees for an unused amenity. B. LaMontagne noted that in his experience while walking trails were a common addition to subdivision plans at the time Mill Pond was approved, they are rarely used in those developments. After presenting the concept to the Town Planner, it was suggested that the applicant meet with the Commission since the approved 1999 plan noted that "The nature trail construction location and operation shall be coordinated with the Conservation Commission." M. Considine confirmed with B. LaMontagne and D. Finn that the trails and fields were not requested by the Planning Board as a form of mitigation to offset other impacts within the subdivision, nor were any concessions (e.g. waivers for density or other requirements) given to the developer for construction of the trails and fields. D. Lievens stated that she hoped the residents would at least come to view the northernmost recreational field as an asset.

252627

G. Harrington made a motion to recommend to the Planning Board that Brook Hollow Corporation be relieved from having to develop and maintain the walking trails and recreational fields associated with the approved 1999 Mill Pond subdivision plan, but the Commission strongly encourages retaining the northern internal recreational field. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.

29 30 31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

28

Dog Park (proposed site on map and lot 5-62)- At their June 25, 2013 meeting, Commissioners reviewed a draft proposal from the Town's Dog Park Study Committee for placement of a portion of the .55 acre dog park within the deed restricted area on map 5 lot 62. After reviewing the terms of the deed, Commissioners agreed that several conditions would be violated by construction of a dog park within the restricted area (see June 25, 2013 minutes). Since the goal of the easement is to preserve wildlife corridors and habitat, it was decided that a dog park would arguably frustrate that intent. Scott Benson, Planning Board representative to the Study Committee, attended this meeting to discuss those comments. Consensus from the Commission was that while the site would be a good location for a dog park, chiefly due of the distance from residential homes, any obstruction of



# Londonderry Conservation Commission Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Minutes

the wildlife corridor would be detrimental to the purpose of the deed restriction. D. Lievens noted that the construction of additional recreational fields on West Road did not occur because of endangered wildlife habitat located there. There was no objection, however, to the perimeter fencing of a dog park abutting the edge of the restricted area. The Commission suggested the Study Committee meet with the Town GIS Manager to devise a different shape to the dog park which would remove it entirely from the restricted area.

<u>CIP</u>- Commissioners reviewed a draft submission and worksheet created by Commissioner Mike Speltz for the FY 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Plan (see Attachments #2 and #3). There were no objections or suggested amendments. **G. Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Capital Improvements Plan submission as prepared. P. Nickerson seconded.** The motion was approved, 6-0-0.

Outdoor Recreation Guide & Management Plan- D. Lievens reported that she and Commissioner Mike Speltz met with the Planning Department's third party Economic Development consultant, Stuart Arnett of the Arnett Development Group (ADG), to gauge whether he and his colleagues could develop the Commission's Outdoor Recreation Guide & Management Plan. The outcome was for ADG to propose a pilot for both the guide and management plan, and to scope out the required skills and budget for each. A second meeting on July 8 took place with Planning Staff and ADG members, which resulted in the idea of creating a beta-test guide for the conservation and recreational areas south and east of Gilcreast and Mammoth Roads respectively. The next meeting between Staff and ADG will take place on July 18, at which time the beta-test planning will begin. Results will then be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

<u>Target shooting in the Musquash</u>- M. Considine reported that he has encountered four additional groups of target shooters in the Musquash Conservation Area over the last two weeks, two of which were not from Londonderry and therefore not familiar with the area and its numerous trails. As before, some of the target shooters were firing in close proximity to trails. He said he has left a message with the Acting Town Manager so the two can meet and discuss possible next steps to curtail or stop target shooting activity in the Musquash.

<u>Monitoring</u>- T. Bloom reviewed results of her ongoing organization of monitoring efforts of conserved lands in town. While some additional work still needs to be done, it was anticipated that monitoring of lands not already performed by other entities such as the Rockingham County Conservation District can begin this fall.

<u>Hicks appraisal</u>- D. Lievens stated that the appraisal for the Hicks property on map 6 lot 2-1 has been submitted by McManus & Nault Appraisal Company. Copies were distributed for Commissioners to review during the meeting. Joint Negotiating Commission representative P. Nickerson stated that the



# Londonderry Conservation Commission Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Minutes

JNC will be meeting soon to discuss the results of the report. An invoice for \$2,400 was also received. G. Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,400 from the Open Space Protection Fund for the appraisal prepared by McManus & Nault Appraisal Company, Inc. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.

<u>DRC- Londonderry Fish + Game Site Plan Amendment (Outdoor 200 & 400-yard shooting ranges) Map 8 Lots 12 & 13-</u>

Comments: Note please: The Conservation Overlay District is marked on sheet 2. It appears that there is no impact to the COD buffer (i.e. no need for a Conditional Use Permit of any kind) because the wetland narrows down to become less than half an acre at the site.

<u>D+F - Londonderry Fish + Game Site Plan Amendment</u>- There were no objections from Commissioners regarding this Dredge and Fill application associated with the Londonderry Fish and Game proposal to build two outdoor shooting ranges on map 8 lots 12 and 13. The proposed 995 square feet of permanent wetland impact would take place when a timber plank bridge is constructed to enable full access to the 400-yard range. **G. Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to write a letter to the State Wetlands Bureau indicating that the Commission had no objections to or comments regarding the Minimum Impact Dredge and Fill application submitted by Londonderry Fish + Game. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.** 

June 25, 2013 minutes- G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2013 public session as written. M. Considine seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-2 with P. Nickerson and T. Bloom abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.

P. Nickerson made motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

112 Jaye Trottier113 Associate Planner

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - July 9, 2013 - Attachment #1

Brook Hollow Corp. 317 South River Road Bedford, NH 03110 603 668-7933

June 26, 2013

Town of Londonderry Conservation Commission 268B Mammoth Rd. Londonderry, NH 03053

Dear Members of the Commission,

Brook Hollow Corp (BHC) is the developer of the Mill Pond Subdivision located off Old Derry Road. The subdivision was originally approved by the Londonderry Planning Board in November of 1999. The subdivision was approved as a Planned Residential Development with open space common areas. In total there are 121 lots in Mill Pond, and 114 lots will be members of the Mill Pond of Londonderry Homeowners' Association and will share an equal undivided interest in the common areas. As part of the original approval, Nature Trails were included on the Plan (RCRD plan #D-27677), and this plan stipulated in note #5 "The nature trail construction location and operation shall be coordinated with the Conservation Commission". At the time of approval, many planning boards around the state were incorporating trails (fitness, recreation, nature, etc.) into their requirements for new subdivisions. It is BHC's experience that these trails are seldom used and not looked upon favorable by homeowners and their owners' associations. Mill Pond is no exception.

At the annual meeting of the Mill Pond Homeowners' Association on May 23, 2012, BHC announced that it hoped to work on trails and build the general use field located on Manter Mill Road later that year. Homeowners were unanimously opposed to the nature trail and the field, and they requested that BHC not build them. The nature trail depicted on the plan running behind homes on Hunter Mill Way between Old Derry Road and the Cohas Brook Bridge on Hunter Mill Way was of greatest concern. It was viewed as a privacy and security issue and a possible disruption to the wildlife along the Brook. Homeowners expressed these same concerns to the Planning Board at a meeting on August 8, 2012. Due to delays in opening Phase II, no construction on trails or fields was done in 2012. At the May 21, 2013 association meeting homeowners reiterated their objections to the trails and fields. After the annual meeting homeowners wrote up and signed a petition which shows virtually unanimous opposition to trails and the Manter Mill Field (copy of petition enclosed). A special meeting of the association was held June 25, 2013 in order to further discuss the trails and fields. In this meeting a resolution requesting the Declarent (BHC) petition the town for removal of trails and fields was unanimously approved by association members (copy of resolution attached).

On June 13, 2013 representatives from BHC met with the Cynthia May, Town Planner, to discuss removing the fields and trails from the plans, and she did not have an issue with bringing it before the planning board for approval. Since the Conservation Commission has involvement in the trails, she directed us to bring the trail removal before the commission for approval, and for BHC to review documents to see if they were supposed to be public or private. From our review of the plans and association documents, we believe that the trails and fields in Mill Pond are intended for private use, and there were no concessions (waivers of impact fees or density) given to BHC for their construction.

Attached are four pages from the approved Mill Pond Subdivision Plan (pages 2, 36, 48, & 49 of 100). Page 2 is the only page that depicts the Nature Trails, and there are no construction specifications. I have highlighted the trails in blue on page 2 and approximated where they would be (in blue) in the other three pages. The trails of most importance are the two on the south side of the Cohas Brook. The trail behind the homes on Hunter Mill opens onto Old Derry Road at one end and on a steep slope behind a guardrail on the other end near the brook. Homeowners see this trail as welcoming in people walking along Old Derry Road, and that this poses a security risk and additional cost to the association for cleaning up of litter. The north end of the trail near Cohas Brook would also have to be built in wetlands to avoid traversing lot #13-106. The trail on Manter Mill would go behind the general use field. Both this trail and the field are separated from the Mill Pond Community by Cohas Brook and wetlands. The location lends itself better for non-Mill Pond resident use with the expense of upkeep to be borne by the association.

After listening to the concerns of the homeowners and meeting with Londonderry Planning, BHC requests that the conservation commission approve the removal of the trails from the recorded plan. The open space south of Cohas Brook will remain in its natural state, and association homeowners will not have to bear the costs associated with a field that is not likely to be used. The open space in the north end of the project where the other field and its surrounding trails would go has been mostly cleared and will be loamed and seeded. All the open space can still be used by the owners of Mill Pond, and they could, at some point in the future, decide as an association to clear trails (in appropriate areas) for residents' use. We believe that is preferable to installing trails and increasing maintenance costs for something that is opposed and not likely to be used.

We look forward to meeting with you on July  $9^{\text{th}}$ . Should you have any questions before then, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely

Robert LaMontagne

President - Brook Hollow Corp.

# Mill Pond of Londonderry Homeowners Association

Special Meeting - June 25, 2013; 6:00 PM

Held at 17 Hunter Mill Way, Londonderry, NH 03053

<u>Resolution</u> – The Mill Pond of Londonderry Homeowners' Associations (MP HOA) formally requests Brook Hollow Corp. (Declarant) to petition the Town of Londonderry Planning Board and Conservation Commission for the removal of all Nature Trails and General Use Fields as shown and/or identified on the Mill Pond Subdivision Plans approved by the Town of Londonderry Planning Board. The individual homeowners/members of the Association have requested that Brook Hollow Corp. NOT construct such fields and trails. Be it resolved that the members of The Mill Pond of Londonderry Homeowners Association vote as follows regarding removal of the Nature Trails and General Use Fields from the Mill Pond Subdivision:

(a YES is a vote in favor of Brook Hollow Corp. NOT constructing the trails and fields and the removal of the trails and fields from the subdivision plans)

Subject 1: Opposition to the proposed Nature Trails to be located behind the even numbered houses 2 through 16 in the Mill Pond Crossing development.

Subject 2: Opposition to the placement and maintenance responsibility of the proposed Recreation Field.

### Petition Background, Subject 1 (Preamble):

As development of Phase II of the Mill Pond Crossing Development begins, the Nature Trails that were incorporated into the original design of the neighborhood are set to begin construction. While the undersigned can appreciate the concept of the Nature Trails, the placement of these trails right behind, and in some cases directly on the rear and side property boundaries, is problematic for a number of reasons:

- The proposed placement will create a significant privacy issue for the neighborhood with its placement in such close proximity to the backyards of the homes of a number of residents.
- The proposed placement also creates a significant safety issue, as it will allow direct rear
  access to the properties it abuts, creating safety concerns for the children in the area, as well
  as providing an easy access point for those looking to break into homes.
- Although hunting may or may not be allowed (there are no signs posted), armed hunters could utilize these Trails, posing safety concerns again due to the close proximity of the Trail to the houses.
- The Trails may serve as an attractive place for teenagers to hang out at night or for those looking to find a place to easily "dump" trash because of the open access to Old Derry Road.
- The open access from Old Derry Road may also invite unwanted ATV and snowmobile use.
- The trail design funnels people from outside of the neighborhood smack into the middle of the neighborhood, with no place to go.
- Old Derry Road is not equipped to handle parked cars for those outside of the neighborhood looking to utilize the Trail.
- There is also concern that the Trail will degrade the already narrow wildlife and stream corridor in which it will be placed, disturbing wildlife, degrading the buffer strip along the stream, and increasing opportunities for wildlife to be preyed upon by pets.

The original residents of this community have been opposed to these Trails and that opposition was stated during the course of the Homeowner's Association meetings in the past. It was also verbally agreed in earlier Homeowner Association annual meetings by a member of LaMontagne in response to the opposition, that these trails would be taken off the future plans. Unfortunately, none of the residents in the neighborhood were aware of the steps that were necessary to remove the Trails from the plans until recently or official action would have been initiated years ago by the original residents.

#### Petition:

We the undersigned ask the Town of Londonderry and LaMontagne Builders to remove the Nature Trail from the plan or to reconsider the placement of it elsewhere where it would not create conflict and the intended use can be appreciated. We believe that the negative potential impact on our community outweighs any benefit this Trail may bring, and the merits and design of the Trail need to be reevaluated.

# Petition Background, Subject 2 (Preamble):

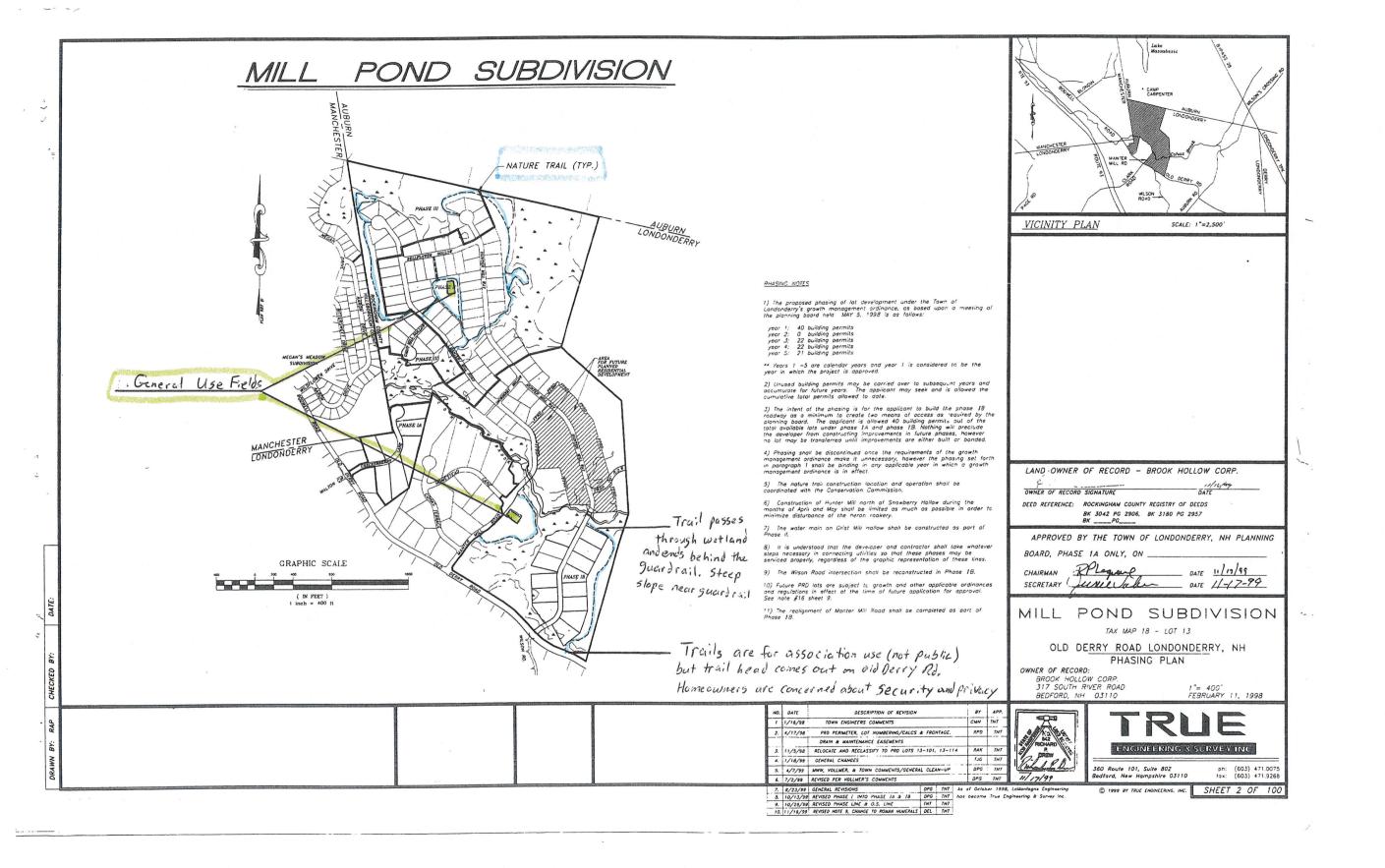
As development of Phase II of the Mill Pond Crossing Development begins, the Recreation Field that was incorporated into the original design of the neighborhood is set to begin construction. While the undersigned are not opposed to the idea of a Recreation Field, we are opposed to 1) the location of this field on Manter Mill Road as it relates to the Mill Pond Crossing neighborhood and 2) the additional cost to each Homeowner for the upkeep of a Recreation Field outside of the neighborhood. There will be no easy access to this field for the majority of the Mill Pond Crossing residents (both current and future) and there is no way to monitor or control who uses this field and the potential destruction that unauthorized users would create.

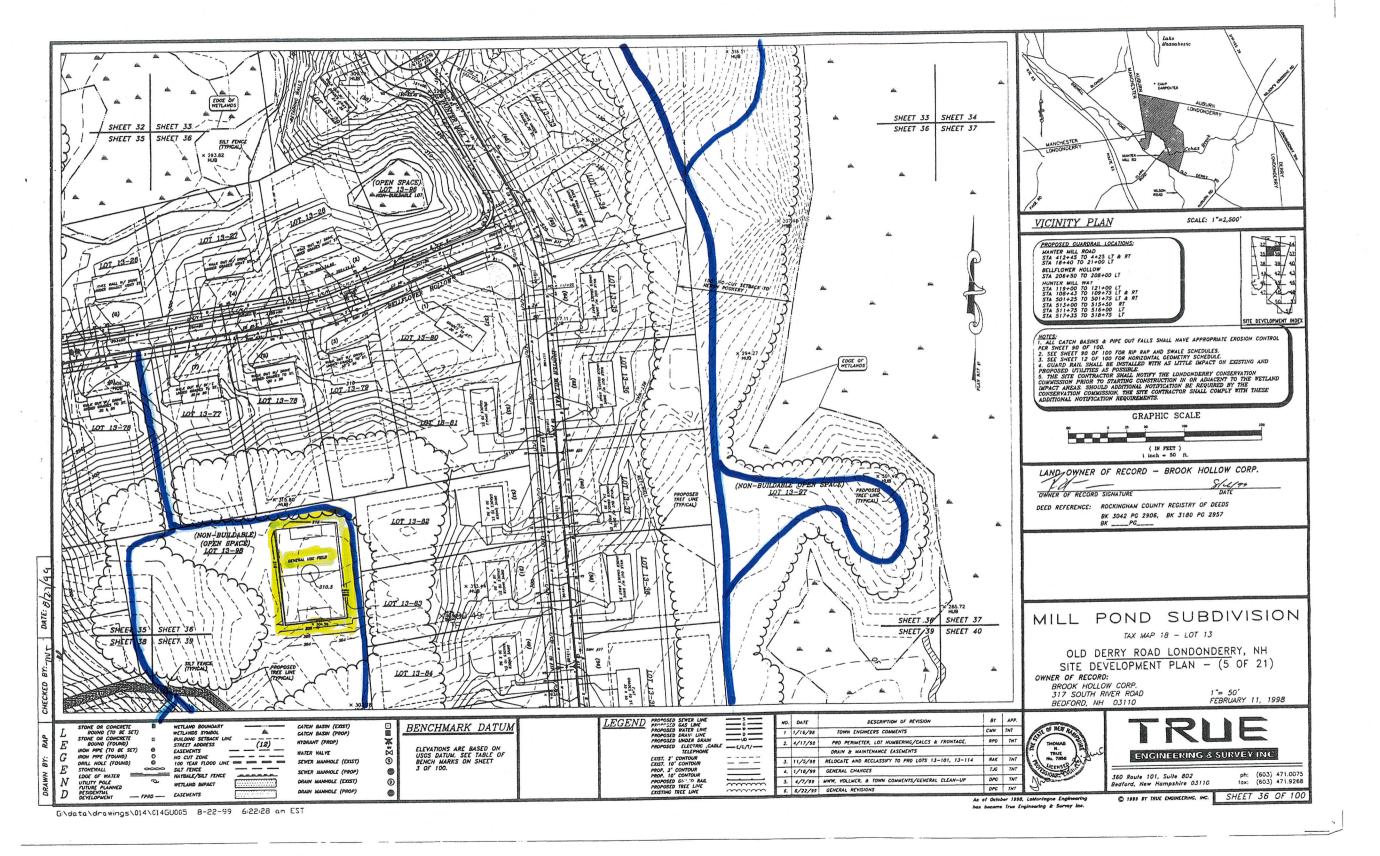
## Petition:

We, the undersigned, ask the Town of Londonderry and LaMontagne Builders to devise a reasonable plan to secure the field for access, use and control by neighborhood residents only. If this cannot be achieved, we then ask that the cost to maintain this field not fall on the responsibility of the Mill Pond Crossing homeowners.

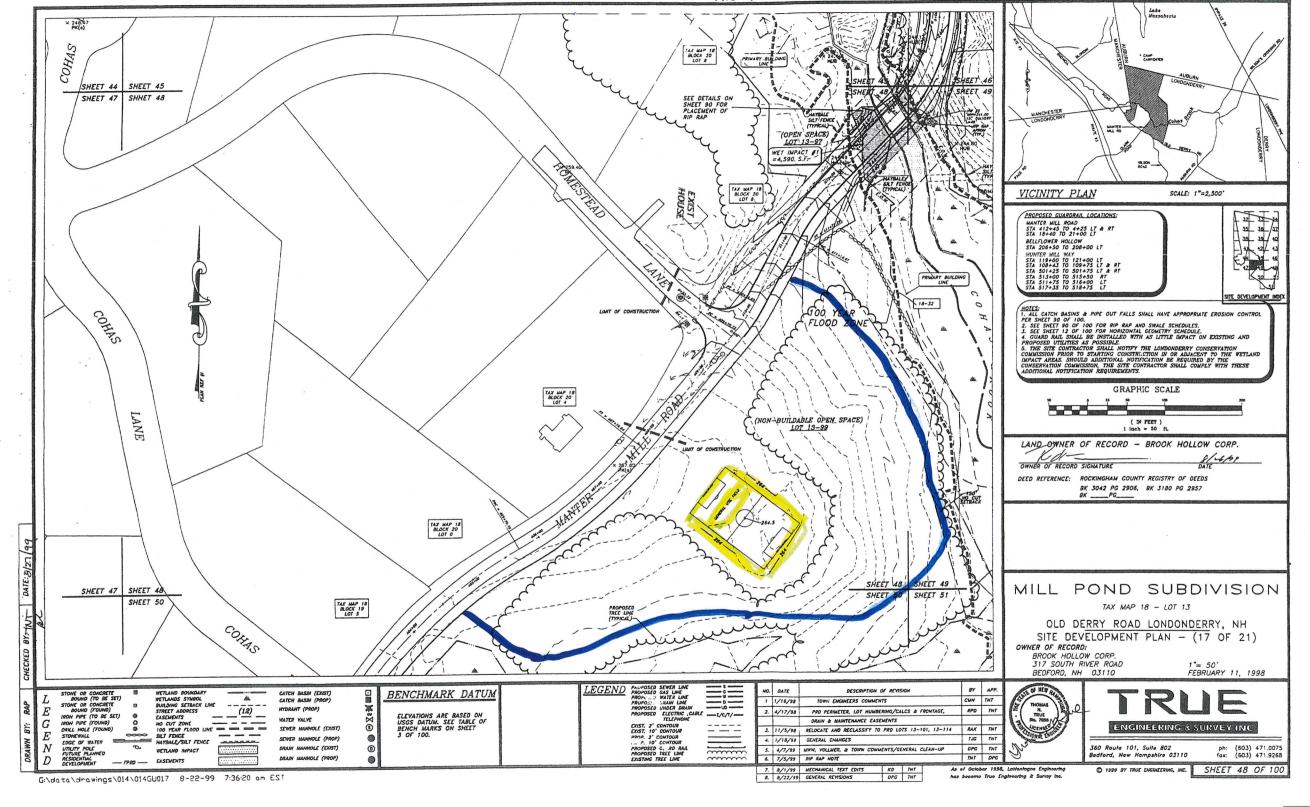
# Opposition to Subjects (YES or NO)

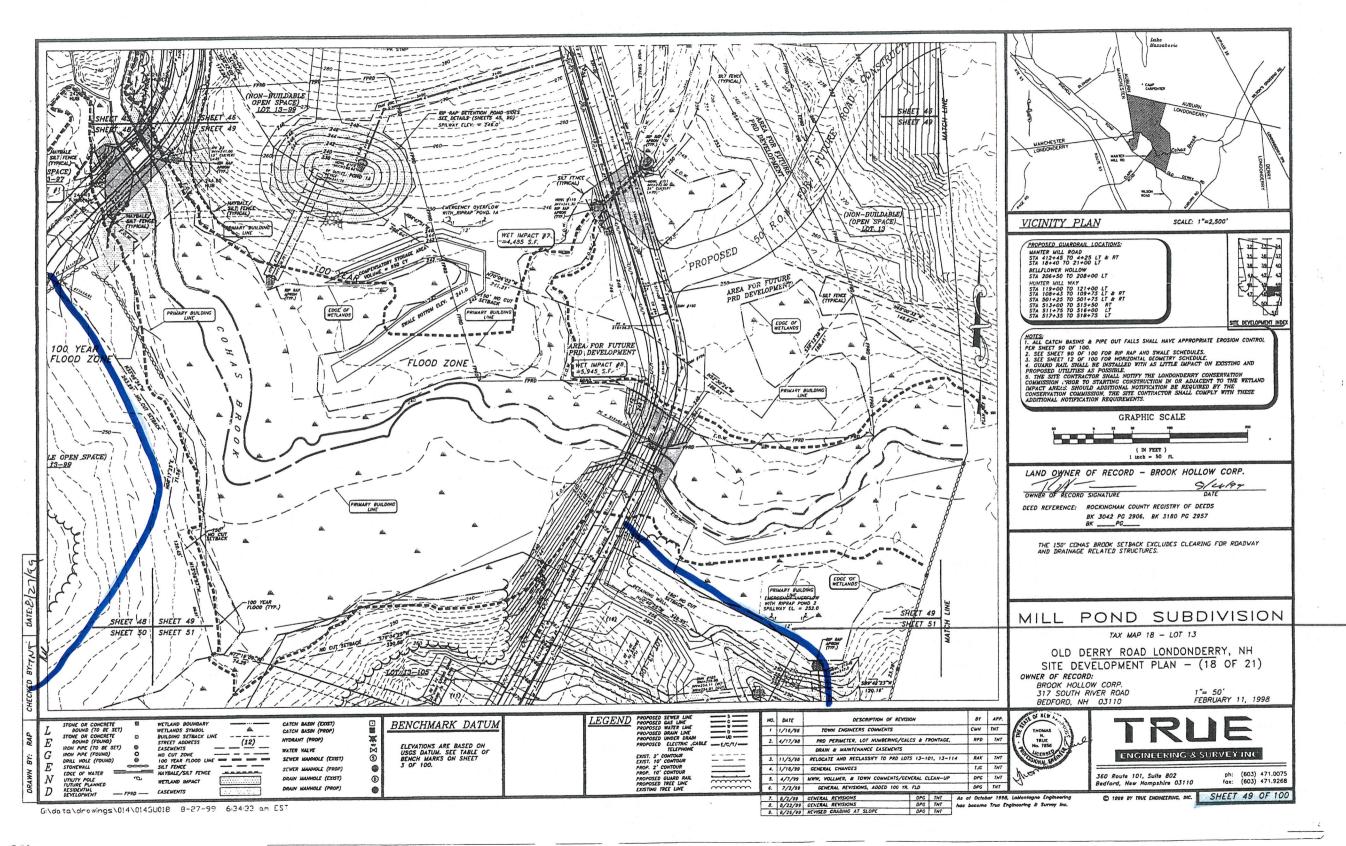
			(YES or NO)		
House#	Owners (Print name)	Owners (Sign name)	#1	#2	
1	MAURO J. SCALI	Many Ser	1		
	Darla L. Scal.	Roch & ful		~	
2	PAUL SILVA	Saul Silvan	425	KES	
	Kerry Silva	Kerry Gell	YES	485	
3	Joe Monterty	Chy Mind	Yes	Yes	
	Aimee Mariarth	A Moriante	Yes	Yes	
4	Panene Sauson	The Best There	Nes		
	Stephen Jamison	Some les	yes		
5	Ten farent	Theusa Kaunt	Yes	705	
	Stephan Beaudoin	fat Int 2	Jes	925	
6	Stoples Kith Kenny	2170)	Ye,	Xe j	
7					
		A 14			
8	Evic Teittinen	Ga Marine	Yes	Y 25	
	Barbara Teittinen	Bailaia Feittinen	Yes	Yes	
9	Colleen Monks	Colley Works	Yes	Yes	
	IAM MOMKS	dath	725	765	
10	Wayne M LaMalue	Wage m. L. mil	Yes	Ver	
	Judith la Malva	Figuet Tallia	425	yes	
11	Rokesh Datel	A sum land	Tes	Yes	
	Hetal PS Patel	Heter of 94	Yes	Yes	
12	TODO C KAPLAN	- July	YES	YES	
	Lianne Kaples	la japle	yes	Yes	
14	Chas Ohelan	10 Ch 0/19	705	Yes	
	Joanne Jackson	Janus Jack	185	195	
16	Kauren S. Latter gon	Rouen of Jablengar	yes	yes VIE	
	/ heliel 151	/ huhelt at	YES	LYES	





# Manter Mill field appears to benefit non-Mill Pond residents. Homeocuners are concerned about outside use, littering, and location across cohas brook or wetlands from their homes. They see increase association costs with little benefit





- Malking trail would have
  to go through designated we lands to avoid crossing lot
  13-106's lot line.
   Trail also goes over steep slope and starts/ends at a guardrail
- Trail not feasible in this area



Department:	Department Priority:					
	_1of 1projects					
Type of Project:	Primary Effect of Project is to:					
(check one)	D Replace or repair existing facilities or equipment					
	D Improve quality of existing facilities or equipment					
	X Expand capacity of existing service level/facility					
	D Provide new facility or service capacity					
Service Area of Project:	D Region D Town Center					
(check one)	X Town-wide D Street					
	D School District D Other Area					
	D Neighborhood					
Project Description: This project implements one of the six "targets" of the 2012 Master Plan to "Fund the Town's Conservation Fund for purchasing land or securing conservation easements that preserve key water resources, agricultural land, natural areas, or scenic view sheds identified in the Open Space Task Force Final Report. Provide at least \$500,000 per year for six years to fund purchases and maintain grant matching funds. The funds requested will be used to maintain the natural services and benefits provided by open spaces. The land proposed for protection will enhance water quality and quantity, provide flood storage, protect habitat, enhance recreation potential by linking open lands, promote agriculture, protect historic structures, preserve scenic views, and preserve the natural landscape.						
Rationale for Project: (check those that apply, elaborate below)						
Narrative Justification: With the recession ending and major development projects either in process or before the						

Narrative Justification: With the recession ending and major development projects either in process or before the Planning Board,, the town stands to lose significant amounts of its remaining, unprotected open space. For the first time in many years the NH Land & Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) has been approved for full funding. By ensuring that the towns Conservation Fund remains solvent, the town will be able seize opportunities to protect additional open space and, with matching funds in hand, will have a competitive advantage in competing for roughly \$8,000,000 in LCHIP funds. Several federal, state and foundation grant programs are available to assist in open space protection; nearly all require secure, previously authorized match funding. Since the land proposed for protection under the Open Space Plan is currently zoned residential, over the long term, additional open space will slow the growing demand for town services. By enhancing the livability of the town, a network of connected and distributed open spaces will attract business owners wishing to live and do business in such a town. More frequent extreme weather events and more impervious surface have combined to make the town more vulnerable to flooding. Open space reduces the risk.

Cost Estimate: (Itemize as	Capital Costs  Dollar Amount (In current \$)				
Necessary)	,				
• ,					
NOTE: Funding follows the 2012	\$3,000,000				
CIP Committee		Site preparation			
recommendation to propose a	\$	Construction			
\$600K/year level	\$ \$	Furnishings & equipment			
effort funding stream.		Vehicles & capital equipment			
	Φ.	·	squipinient		
	\$ \$				
	\$ \$_				
	Φ				
	\$3,000,000	Total Project Cost	:		
Source of Funding:					
•	Grant From:	LCHIP, FRPP, etc	\$_600,000	(show	type)
	Loan From:	•	\$	 (show	
	Donation/Bequ	uest/private	\$	,	. ,
	User Fees & Cl	-	\$		
	Capital Reserve Withdrawal Impact Fee Account		\$		
			\$		
	Current Reven		\$		
	General Obliga		\$2,400,000		
	Revenue Bond		\$		
	Special Assessment		\$		
			\$		
			\$		
		Total Project Cost:	\$3,000,000		
Form Prepared By:					
	Signature:				
	Title:	Chair			
	Dept./Agency:	pt./Agency: Conservation Commission			
	Date Prepared:	epared: <u>July 8, 2013</u>			
	Title: Dept./Agency:	Conservation Comm	nission		



# Londonderry Capital Improvement Plan Capital Project Scoring Sheet



Department: Conservation Commission Project Name: Open Space Acquisition

Evaluation Criteria		Point Score					
•	Addresses an emergency or public safety need	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Addresses a deficiency in service or facility <sup>1</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Provides capacity needed to serve existing population or future $\operatorname{growth}^2$	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Results in long-term cost savings <sup>3</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Supports job development/increased tax base <sup>4</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Furthers the goals of the 2012 Master Plan <sup>5</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Leverages the non-property tax revenues <sup>6</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0
•	Matching funds available for a limited time <sup>7</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	0

Total Project Score: 25 of a possible 40 points

#### Footnotes:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Not all residents have access to nearby open space; goal is a 10-minute walk to 10 acres.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The draft CIP predicts significant population growth that will lead to increased demand for outdoor recreation, and increased need for the protection of water quality and quantity. Currently proposed dense developments may increase the build-out population beyond projections, thereby creating additional requirements for open space.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Avoided residential development reduces demand for town and school services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Promotes "Business is good, life is better" marketing strategy by providing scenic views and outdoor recreation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Directly implements one of the six targets identified in the 2012 Master Plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Makes timber tax revenue more likely; encourages rooms & meals tax receipts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> LCHIP funds in particular have had a history of unreliable funding, but \$8,000,000 should be available in FY14-15. Federal funds available for conservation are largely in decline, but there is still presequester funding in the "pipeline."