



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Minutes

1 Present: Gene Harrington; Paul Nickerson; Truda Bloom; Ben LaBrecque; Marge Badois; Mike Speltz; and
2 Tom Dolan, Town Council Liaison.

3
4 Also Present: Town GIS Manager and Comprehensive Planner, John Vogl.

5
6 Acting Chair Gene Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He appointed M. Speltz to vote
7 for Mike Considine.

8
9 Town Forest (Invasive Species)- J. Vogl presented a conceptual plan on behalf of Town Sexton Kent Allen
10 who is requesting permission to perform maintenance tasks in the Town Forest on Map 6 Lot 97-1. K.
11 Allen's suggestions (see Attachment #1) include cutting and removal of downed trees and branches,
12 trees under three inches in diameter, and Oriental Bittersweet, an invasive species. Volunteers, such
13 as residents, members of Londonderry Trailways, and local Boy Scout Troops, could perform the work
14 and K. Allen has asked the Public Works Department to consider removal of the resulting debris. The
15 Heritage Commission, stewards of the adjacent Town Common, were briefed on the plan at a recent
16 meeting and were in support of the proposal.

17 P. Nickerson asked if there would be any cost associated with the project. J. Vogl said he was
18 unsure, but reiterated K. Allen's intention of seeking volunteers. G. Harrington expressed concern over
19 possible safety issues for volunteers, given the tasks as described. T. Dolan asked Staff to confirm
20 whether the Town's liability coverage would extend to employees working on Town owned land.
21 Commissioners also commented that downed trees and other forest debris serve the purpose of
22 providing wildlife habitat, while removal of trees under three inches in diameter would equate to the
23 removal of the future forest. J. Vogl added that on a recent site walk with Commission Chair Deb
24 Lievens, she had remarked that the concept of using the forest in a park-like manner is not conducive to
25 its intent as a natural resource. He also explained that one of K. Allen's specific goals is to remove
26 brush and clear the area around a recently blazed five foot wide trail that traverses the forest from the
27 Town Common to Mack's Orchard (map 6 lot 97). Commissioners agreed that clearing and removing
28 items along the trail would be appropriate. Eradication of the Bittersweet began several years ago and
29 Commissioners agreed that the effort should be continued.

30 Consensus was reached that the licensed invasive species specialist who previously performed
31 removal of the Bittersweet should be hired again to apply the necessary herbicide and perform
32 permanent removal of the plant roots. If his efforts can be coordinated with that of the volunteers,
33 they could continue the root removal process with his supervision. If not, volunteers can still pull the
34 plant from the trees. In addition, the Town Forester can be asked for his professional opinion,
35 particularly if a management plan was put in place at the time of the last selective cut. In the
36 meantime, K. Allen was given consent to perform cleanup work around the new trail. G. Harrington
37 asked J. Vogl to invite K. Allen to the August 27 Commission meeting if he would like to present a more
38 detailed proposal based on the feedback provided at this meeting.

39 **M. Speltz made a motion for the Commission to confer with the Town Forester to determine**
40 **whether he has advice on how to proceed with the "cleaning out" of the Town Forest. P. Nickerson**
41 **seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**



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43 Outdoor Recreation Guide & Management Plan- J. Vogl introduced the Town's Economic Development
44 Contractor Stuart Arnett of the Arnett Development Group. S. Arnett explained that he has contracted
45 with Roger Hawk of Hawk Planning Resources, LLC and Landscape Architect Bill Flynn to perform a
46 beta-test of the southeast portion of town and produce a trial guide for the Commission. The guide
47 would feature maps of all Town owned land and conservation easements in that area, along with a
48 briefing of the uses permitted, limitations on seasonal uses, access, historic and cultural attributes,
49 natural resources, etc. Once the guide is established, a management plan can take shape to provide
50 ongoing stewardship of those lands. S. Arnett was asked to brief the Town Council on the subject at
51 their August 19 meeting during the Public Comment portion of the agenda. Commissioners agreed
52 that the beta-test should be pursued as described. Based on S. Arnett's breakdown of tasks and
53 associated costs for this first phase of the project, **M. Speltz made a motion to authorize the Chair to**
54 **expend an amount not to exceed \$9,000 from the Open Space Protection Fund to fund the beta-test of**
55 **the Recreation Guide. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**
56

57

58 Monitoring- T. Bloom requested that before she make final monitoring assignments to fellow
59 Commissioners, she obtain input from M. Speltz regarding her organization of monitoring efforts of
60 conserved lands in town. M. Speltz offered to arrange a meeting with her later in the week.

61

62 Baiting in the Musquash- As stewards of the Musquash Conservation Area, the Conservation
63 Commission was recently asked for permission to bait there during deer hunting season via a permit to
64 be obtained from the State Fish and Game Department. G. Harrington explained that under State law,
65 the hunter would have to post signage where the baiting is to occur, he would have to refrain from
66 baiting within 300 feet from the nearest trail, and can only apply for the State permit after April 1 in a
67 given year. The annual deadline for permits is the following August. A map was provided by the
68 hunter seeking the Town's approval of the State permit (see Attachment #2). Since the Commission
69 did not believe the activity would pose an ecological or safety issue, it was decided to take up the issue
70 of granting permission before April 1 of 2014, assuming the hunter is still seeking a baiting permit for
71 that deer hunting season.

72

73 Tanager Landing trail- Residents of Tanager Way were present to seek input from the Commission
74 about activities they say are related to the Musquash trailhead located on that street. While the
75 topic is scheduled for the August 27 meeting, G. Harrington gave the residents a chance to convey
76 their concerns. Jeanette Chasin of 34 Tanager Way, Kate Cutting of 32 Tanager Way, and Paul Marini
77 of 25 Tanager Way explained that people using the trail are parking on the street, making passage for
78 school buses and emergency vehicles difficult if not impossible, and creating the potential for
79 accidents. Cars have parked on private property on several occasions and it was noted that some
80 visitors are simply parking and not using the trail, creating safety concerns for the homeowners and
81 their children. They stated that gunfire can be heard all during the day and into the evening hours,
82 which Commissioners noted is something that (outside of hunting season) may be related to target
shooting in the Musquash and/or the use of shooting ranges at the Londonderry Fish & Game Club.



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83 Litter and debris have also been left at the trailhead on several occasions according to the residents.
84 Possible signage regarding parking and hours for access was discussed, as was creation of a defined
85 parking area. J. Chasin cautioned that a parking area could simply exacerbate the problem of
86 on-street parking. Since Commissioner Mike Considine wanted to be present for this topic, it was
87 explained to the residents that the issue will be revisited at the August 27 meeting. They were
88 encouraged to attend and provide any information beforehand to Staff that would demonstrate their
89 experiences.

90

91 July 9, 2013 minutes- **P. Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2013 public**
92 **session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-2 with B. LaBrecque and M.**
93 **Speltz abstaining as they had not attended the meeting.**

94

95 August 5, 2013 minutes- T. Bloom noted that in the heading of the August 5 minutes, the day was
96 incorrectly identified as Tuesday instead of Monday. **M. Speltz made a motion to approve the**
97 **minutes of the August 5, 2013 public session as amended. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was**
98 **approved, 6-0-1 with B. LaBrecque abstaining as he had not attended the meeting.**

99

100 CIP/Open Space Funding- M. Speltz reported that just prior to the August 12 Capital Improvements
101 Plan (CIP) Committee meeting, it was explained by Staff that unless the Commission had a specific
102 project identified in their submission, the CIP would not be the appropriate source to fund the Open
103 Space Plan. Instead, the Commission should request that the Town Council include an article in the
104 Town Meeting warrant for an open space bond. M. Speltz noted that the Commission has presented
105 an application to the CIP Committee each year for approximately a decade, but asked for suggestions
106 from the Commission for alternate funding sources. In order to obtain grant funding, he noted,
107 having matching funds in place is typically essential. T. Dolan suggested bringing forth a citizen's
108 petition for Town Meeting in the event the Town Council does not support a warrant article. Based
109 on an indication of support for open space preservation from a majority of residents surveyed during
110 both the Open Space Task Force and Town Master Plan processes, M. Speltz proposed holding a
111 non-binding referendum on the funding of open space through the annual Town budget. The result
112 could be a maintenance trust fund where open space funds could accumulate, however it was pointed
113 out that the line item would need to be brought each year before the Town Council, just as a warrant
114 article would. M. Speltz offered to generate a straw man proposal for the first Commission meeting
115 in September to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a warrant article, citizen's petition, and
116 budget line item.

117

118 **T. Bloom made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing**
119 **possible land acquisitions as well as the potential release of portions of non-public minutes regarding**
120 **possible land acquisitions. B. LaBrecque seconded.**

121

122 **Roll call vote: Aye, Gene Harrington; Aye, Truda Bloom; Aye, Paul Nickerson; Aye, Ben LaBrecque; Aye,**
123 **Mike Speltz; Aye, M. Badois; and Aye, Tom Dolan.**



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125 **P. Nickerson made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was**
126 **approved, 7-0-0.**

127

128 **P. Nickerson made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session indefinitely. M. Speltz**
129 **seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

130

131 **M. Speltz made motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved,**
132 **7-0-0.**

133

134 The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

135

136 Respectfully submitted,

137

138

139

140 Jaye Trottier

141 Associate Planner

Town Forest Trail - Common

Project - clean out - tree removal - loam seed

1- Cut all brush - and remove

a - trees under 3"

b - Bittersweet thorns

c - downed trees and branches

Assistance - haul away above materials

2- Remove pine trees and selected hardwoods

3- remove - grindstumps

Assistance - funding (value of pines?)

4- Grade - loam - seed

Assistance - funding - donations

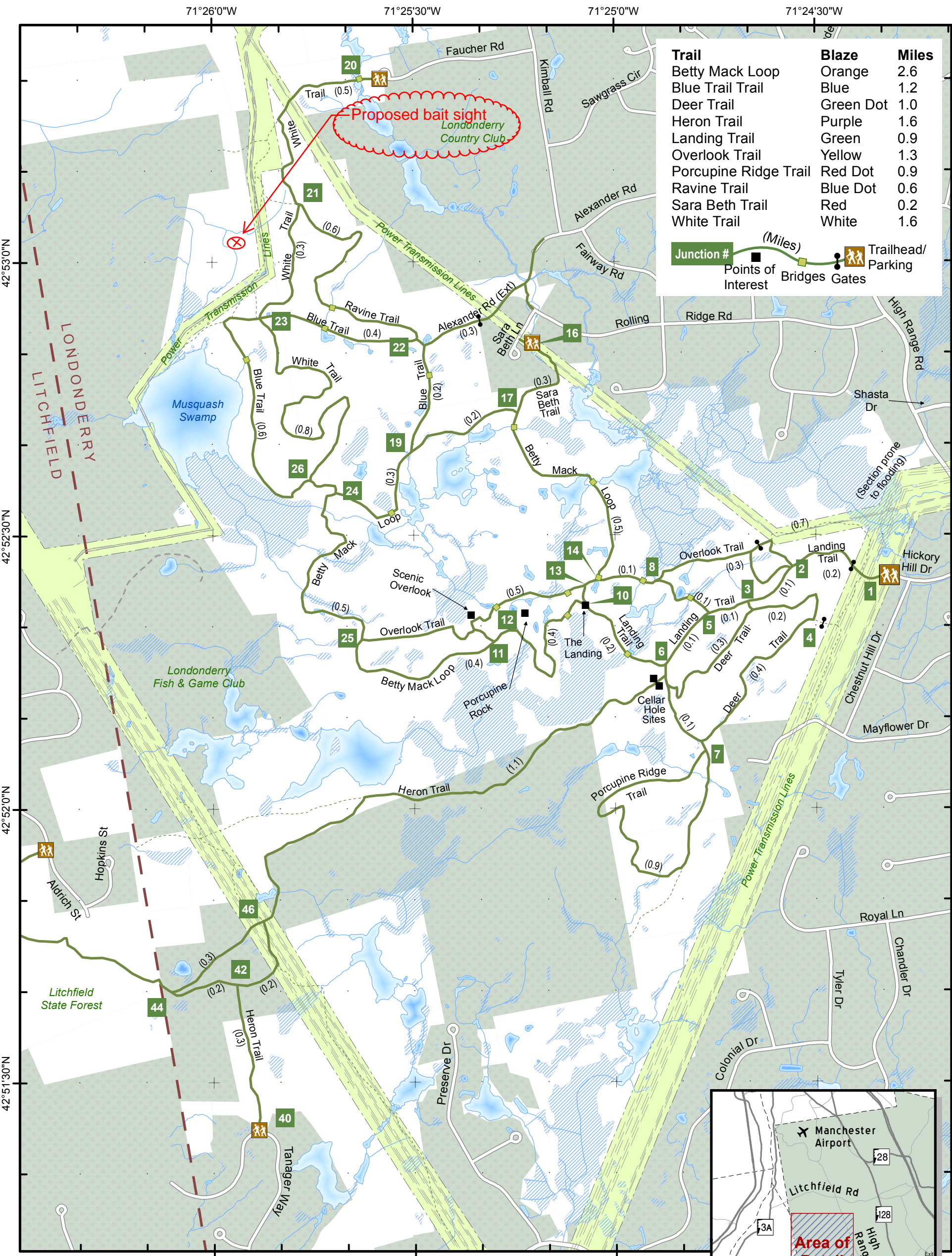
Art Rugg

7/19 11/AM

432-1443

Town Common

Musquash Conservation Area Londonderry, NH



No motorized-wheeled vehicles are allowed in the Musquash Conservation Area per town ordinance. Hunting is allowed during hunting season. Wear bright orange to make yourself visible during this time. This trail map is provided as a reference and is not warranted to be accurate. Trails are current as of Fall, 2010 although conditions are subject to change due to trail work and forces of nature. Use trails at your own risk.

Map prepared by John Vogl, GIS Manager, Londonderry Community Development Dept. for Londonderry Trailways. Conditions are current as of Winter, 2011. Funding was provided by the Londonderry Conservation Commission and a generous donation from Moose Hill Orchards.

