

## Londonderry Conservation Commission Tuesday, September 11, 2012 Minutes

Present: Deb Lievens; Mike Considine; Paul Nickerson; Truda Bloom; Ben LaBrecque; Mike Speltz; and Marge Badois

D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. She appointed M. Badois to vote for Gene Harrington and M. Speltz to vote for the empty seat.

Invasive species (phragmites)- D. Lievens continues to seek permission of the owners of 66 High Range Road to access the rear portion of their land and verify whether the invasive Phragmites is located there so it can be removed (see July 10, 2012 minutes). After M. Badois located the owner's phone number, D. Lievens left a message requesting their consent. She will follow up by mailing them a form to indicate whether they give that consent, along with a SASE envelope. It is too late in the year to obtain the requisite wetlands permit needed to remove the invasive plant, but D. Lievens has asked the professional who will perform the work to begin making the necessary arrangements, including obtaining the permit, so work can begin next fall.

New England Cottontail- At the June 12 meeting, Heidi Holman of New Hampshire Fish and Game (F&G) and Town Forester Charlie Moreno had presented a proposal to create the kind of early successional habitat the endangered New England Cottontail relies on in a 60 +/- acre section of the Musquash Conservation Area. D. Lievens reminded Commissioners that F&G will be performing a site walk of the area on the morning of September 14 and will be discussing issues raised at both the June 12 and 26 meetings. Some of those issues were voiced by Bob Saur, President of Londonderry Trailways. He and Sandy Lagueux will be representing Trailways at the site walk while D. Lievens will represent the Commission. Per M. Considine's request, she has asked F&G if they would perform a second site walk with M. Considine (a member of Trailways as well as a Commissioner) since he is unable to attend on September 14. She has not heard back yet but will ask again. M. Speltz reiterated that while a plan may be approved by the Commission and the Town, initial and long term funding for it should not be the responsibility of the taxpayers.

 B. Saur also expressed interest on behalf of Trailways in the use of the logging road that will be created for the cutting to be done in the Musquash as part of this project. Their hope is to retain that access after the logging is finished for recreational purposes. It was unclear to Commissioners, however, where that logging road may be and whether a previously created right of way will be used.

American Chestnut presentation—D. Lievens announced that the Leach Library has contacted Wildlife Biologist Curt Laffin to give a presentation on the rebirth of the American Chestnut tree, perhaps in the spring or early summer of 2013. Resident Kathy Wagner had told the Library that the Commission would co-sponsor the event. There was no objection to doing so. Once a date is known, the Commission will seek to advertise the event along with the Library, including invitations to Conservation Commissions of surrounding communities and posting the event on the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission website.



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Monitoring- The Rockingham County Conservation District has not yet provided their estimate for the cost of their annual monitoring duties of the Ingersoll property. D. Lievens inquired again last week but has not received either the estimate or whether the cost has increased. To account for any increase, D. Lievens suggested the Commission vote to authorize an amount not to exceed \$700, based on last year's cost of \$600. P. Nickerson made a motion to authorize the Chair to expend an amount not to exceed \$700 from the line item budget to hire the Rockingham County Conservation District to perform the annual monitoring duties of the Ingersoll easement. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.

<u>Membership</u>- The terms of Commissioners G. Harrington, M. Considine, and M. Speltz will expire on December 31, 2012. D. Lievens asked the two present to contact the Town Manager's secretary with their intentions regarding their membership. She will ask G. Harrington to do the same.

Workplace Systems (15-239)- In 2006, the Commission recommended approval of a Conditional Use permit (CUP) to the Planning Board for work proposed within the wetland buffer on 562 Mammoth Road (see May 23, 2006 minutes). The project itself has been dormant due to ownership issues related to the planned sewer connection and access widening. The Wetlands Engineer contacted D. Lievens to make sure the Commission's recommendation is still in place despite the six years of inactivity. D. Lievens informed him that the recommendation does not expire and would remain in place as long as the plan had not changed (note: the plan was never approved by the Planning Board). The Wetland Scientist has submitted a letter to the Planning Department explaining that no further action is required on the part of the LCC, a copy of which was sent to the Commission for their records.

<u>Musquash (hunting season)</u>- M. Considine stated that he will be placing signs at the various kiosks in the Musquash to inform visitors that bow hunting will begin September 15.

<u>Trail days</u>- M. Considine announced that he will be organizing a trail day at the Kendall Pond Conservation Area (KPCA), during which trail maintenance and bridge building will take place (see July 24, 2012 minutes regarding maintenance issues). He will coordinate with Londonderry Trailways and will attempt to have a trail day later in the fall for the Musquash. It was suggested that a new map be made for the KPCA kiosk. M. Considine will contact the Town's GIS Manager for his assistance.

Outdoor Recreation guide- M. Speltz continues to work on the Statement of Work (SOW) for a stewardship-oriented Outdoor Recreation Guide (See August 14 and 28 minutes). He will soon forward the latest updates to the Commission and will be seeking input from the Recreation Commission and School Board before bringing the document back to a Commission meeting for final approval. Approval will also be required from the Commission to put the work out to bid. M. Speltz is anticipating assistance from Town staff to create the Request for Proposals.

Joint Negotiating Committee- D. Lievens contacted Acting Town Manager Chief Hart concerning the



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need to assemble the newly formed Joint Negotiating Committee for land acquisitions. She had offered previously to answer any questions he may have regarding the Commission, land acquisitions, etc. and hopes to meet with him later this week.

August 28, 2012 minutes- M. Considine made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2012 public session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1 with P. Nickerson abstaining as he had not attended the meeting.

T. Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2012 non-public session as

M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1 with P. Nickerson abstaining as he

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P. Nickerson made a motion to go into <u>Non-Public Session</u> per RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing possible land acquisitions. T. Bloom seconded.

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Roll call vote: Aye, Mike Speltz; Aye, Ben LaBrecque; Aye, P. Nickerson; Aye, Mike Considine; Aye, Marge Badois; Aye, Truda Bloom; and Aye, Deb Lievens.

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M. Speltz made a motion to go out of <u>Non-Public Session</u>. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.

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M. Speltz made a motion to seal the minutes of the <u>Non-Public Session</u> indefinitely. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.

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

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:22 PM.

had not attended the meeting.

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109 Respectfully submitted,

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- 112 Jaye Trottier
- 113 Secretary