



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 24, 2011
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1 Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque, and Mike Speltz (late)

2
3 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

4
5 ARM grant- Gove Environmental Services has completed their assessment of the wetlands on map and lot 6-
6 113 and provided their recommendations as part of the restoration project of the Nesenkeag Brook
7 Headwaters on that lot (see May 10, 2011 minutes). Their foremost recommendation is to manage the
8 invasive plant species purple loosestrife and Phragmites found on the property. Remaining grant monies
9 obtained through the Aquatic Resource Mitigation fund will be used to combat the invasives as part of the
0 wetland restoration.

1 D. Lievens reported that based on Gove's assessment, she was advised by an entomologist at the New
2 Jersey Department of Agriculture to purchase \$1,000 worth of the loosestrife eating Galerucella beetles in
3 order to develop an appropriate colony for the area in question. This would cost slightly more than \$1,000 to
4 cover the additional shipping charges and would expend the last of the grant monies. D. Lievens explained
5 that Gove's expenses were almost \$400 more than what was quoted, therefore no funds will be available this
6 year to spray herbicide on the Phragmites. She also learned that a professional with an aquatic license related
7 to pesticide use would need to be sought for that particular work.

8 **D. Lievens entertained a motion to authorize the Chair to purchase \$1,000 worth of Galerucella**
9 **beetles (four sets, 250 each), plus shipping charges, for wetland restoration work associated with the**
0 **Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund grant. G. Harrington so moved. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was**
1 **approved, 5-0-0.**

2
3 Purple Loosestrife- At the April 26 meeting, D. Lievens suggested purchasing Galerucella beetles to counteract
4 the significant amount of the invasive purple loosestrife species at the end of the Faucher Road bridge in the
5 Musquash Conservation Area. She has since learned from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that the
6 wet conditions there will not be suitable for the beetles. She instead suggested a workday in late June or early
7 July where volunteers manually pull out the loosestrife, as has been done successfully in the flax field off
8 Pillsbury Road. B. LaBrecque offered to assist.

9
0 M. Speltz arrived at 7:40. D. Lievens appointed him to vote for George Herrmann.

1
2 Merrill easement- At the May 16 Town Council meeting, this proposed easement on map and lot 17-10 was
3 presented for their approval. The matter has been continued to the June 6 meeting in order to obtain
4 clarification on a legal issue with Town Counsel. There was some question as to why an easement was being
5 purchased instead of just buying the property outright. M. Speltz explained to them the merits of purchasing
6 an easement as opposed to buying the land and Merrill family members spoke of their preference to retain
7 ownership. There was also some question as to whether the lot is a priority according to the Open Space Plan,
8 especially as it is currently being updated. M. Speltz explained that the Open Space Task Force has not yet
9 completed their prioritization of parcels according to their natural values. He did say, however, that the land it
0 is part of the green infrastructure as determined by the Task Force. He added that the Merrills are the only



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1 property owners who have recently approached the Town with a project that could be pursued with the
2 monies remaining in the Open Space Fund.

3
4 SPNH/SNHPC Manchester Greenways Project- The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, in
5 cooperation with the Southern NH Planning Commission, is sponsoring the Manchester Greenways Project to
6 support the development of a trail network with Manchester and directly adjacent communities. To assist
7 SPNH in obtaining grant funding for the project, the consensus of the LCC at the May 10 meeting was for M.
8 Speltz to draft a letter of support for review at the next meeting. Upon reviewing the letter (see attached), **G.**
9 **Harrington made a motion for the Chair to sign and send the letter to the Manchester and Nashua Regions**
0 **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-1 with M.**
1 **Speltz abstaining.**

2
3 I-93 wildlife crossings- At the last meeting, M. Speltz reported that the Open Space Task Force had recently
4 discussed and expressed concerns over the expansion of I-93 and the hindrance it will pose to wildlife and
5 plant migration across the highway. While it is expected that the NH Department of Transportation has made
6 allowances for some movement through various "critter crossings," the Task Force decided to contact DOT to
7 see what has been planned and whether any further action can be negotiated if need be. M. Speltz drafted a
8 letter for the LCC's approval requesting a DOT representative attend an upcoming LCC meeting or at least
9 provide the details of the proposed design. Upon reviewing the letter (see attached), **G. Harrington made a**
0 **motion for the Chair to sign and send the letter to the Project Manager at the NH Department of**
1 **Transportation. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

2
3 Thibeault wetland complaint- The NH Department of Environmental Services recently provided the LCC with a
4 copy of a letter sent to Ernie Thibeault, owner of map 17, lot 19, about possible wetland violations on that
5 property (see May 10, 2011 minutes). A complaint filed with DES alleges that jurisdictional wetlands have
6 been filled without proper authorization from the State. The LCC expressed concern that if any wetlands have
7 been filled, the conservation easement on the eastern portion of that property may have been impacted as
8 well. M. Speltz performed research using Google maps, which showed that equipment seems to have been
9 pulled away from the wetlands between 1998 and 2009. D. Lievens left a message with the case manager at
0 DES, Emily Lucas, but has not yet heard back.

1
2 Target practice in the Musquash- M. Considine was recently contacted with the question of whether target
3 practice during non-hunting seasons was permitted in the Musquash Conservation Area. Apart of State
4 ordinances about the discharging of firearms, the consensus was it is not prohibited. There were concerns,
5 however, because the extensive trail system in the area places any number of people in any given area at any
6 given time. M. Speltz noted the negative environmental impact that can come from an abundance of lead
7 leftover from target shooting. Following further discussion, it was decided to receive input from the Town
8 Attorney.

9
0 Master Plan Update Committee- The Town Planner recently sent a request to all Boards and Committees for a
1 representative from each to comprise the Master Plan Update Steering Committee. It was suggested at the



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2 May 10 meeting that G. Herrmann might be interested in representing the LCC. D. Lievens has since learned
3 that G. Herrmann would not be available. M. Speltz volunteered to be the LCC representative and D. Lievens
4 offered to assist when he is unable to attend.

5
6 Flooding issue, Verani & Evans properties- Larry Keniston of the NH Department of Transportation Rail and
7 Transit Bureau had sent an email to the LCC regarding a perpetual flooding on property owned by the Evans
8 family because of work done by the Veranis on lot 16-5 (see January 25 and February 8 minutes). M. Speltz
9 visited the site and located the edge of the parking lot using a GPS device. He forwarded the waypoints to the
0 GIS Manager, asking that he digitize them using the 2000 Verani site plan to see if there was any
1 encroachment on the wetland at that time. He has not heard back from the GIS Manager as of yet.

2
3 Sunnycrest easement, Phase I- Tracy Degan of the Rockingham County Conservation District drafted a letter
4 on behalf of the LCC to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which would officially transfer ownership
5 of the first phase of the three Sunnycrest orchard easements and the associated monitoring duties to RCCD
6 (see October 26, 2010 April 12, 2011 minutes). The LCC had voted to authorize the Chair to sign and send the
7 letter. Since the issue involves an interest in land, the LCC will request approval from the Town Council once
8 NRCS sanctions the transfer.

9
0 Musquash update- As reported at the May 10 meeting, a Trail Day was held in the Musquash Conservation
1 Area with Londonderry Trailways and various volunteers on Saturday, May 14. M. Considine reported that
2 portions of both the Betty Mack Loop and the Yellow Trail were successfully rerouted out of wet areas.

3
4 Open Space Task Force public meeting- D. Lievens reminded Commissioners that a special public meeting
5 would be held by the Open Space Task Force on May 25 at 7PM in the Moose Hill Council Chambers to obtain
6 input, ideas, and comments from Londonderry residents about future development and conservation in town.

7
8 May 10, 2011 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2011 public**
9 **session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-1 with T. Bloom abstaining as**
0 **she had not attended the meeting.**

1
2 **G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Speltz seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0**
3 **and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.**

4
5 Respectfully submitted,

6
7
8
9 Jaye Trottier
0 Secretary



**TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

268B Mammoth Road Londonderry, NH 03053 (603) 432-1100 x134 (fax) 432-1128 jtrottier@londonderrynh.org

May 25, 2011

Ms. Anne Phillips
Manchester and Nashua Regions New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
37 Pleasant St. Manchester, NH 03301

RE: New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Community Impact Grant

Dear Ms. Phillips,

The purpose of this letter is to urge your support for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) proposal to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Community Impact Grant for the Merrimack Valley Greenway Assessment.

Over the years Londonderry has invested over \$15 million in permanently preserving over 2,800 acres of open space and agricultural land. An additional 1,200 acres has been permanently protected by others. We have protected over 4,000 acres using state law and town zoning ordinances. Our neighboring towns have made similar efforts. In short, Londonderry, a town split by I-93 with its attendant development pressure, has protected over 30% of the town's land area.

But, *what we have not done* is developed a comprehensive, integrated plan to fully exploit the natural and recreational resources we have worked so hard to protect. We have not integrated our efforts with those of our neighboring towns. The Forest Society's Merrimack Valley Greenway Assessment will allow us to take the necessary first step in that direction.

Enabling the Forest Society to accomplish this vital work will:

- Get our residents out of their cars and onto our trails
- Reduce automobile traffic and pollution
- Improve our health, especially that of our children
- Connect people to natural destinations
- Connect us to our neighboring towns
- Connect us to our work, and encourage people to live and work in the same town
- Leverage a huge prior open space investment with a small amount of grant funds

We appreciate your consideration of this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lievens
Londonderry Conservation Commission Chair



**TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

268B Mammoth Road Londonderry, NH 03053 (603) 432-1100 x134 (fax) 432-1128 jtrottier@londonderrynh.org

Mr. Peter Stamnas, Project Manager
NH Department of Transportation
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Mr. Stamnas,

Both the Londonderry Conservation Commission and the Londonderry Open Space Task Force have expressed concern that the re-building and improvements to Interstate 93 will further impact the movement of wildlife and plant migration across the highway. The highway is already a significant barrier, and doubling its width will only exacerbate this problem.

At the same time, we are aware that the Department has taken this concern into account in its project planning. Unfortunately, the "devil is in the details" as far as the ability of the highway to accommodate the movement of wildlife and plant life across this barrier. While the Environmental Impact Statement addressed these concerns in general terms, the effectiveness of the planned mitigation measures depend on the final design, an engineering process that was not completed at the time the EIS was prepared and amended.

The Commission would greatly appreciate whatever information you can provide that details the measures taken to promote natural movement across the highway barrier, and the scientific data that you have relied upon to insure that the planned mitigation measures are sufficient to achieve the goals stated in the EIS. Ideally this would consist of a visit by a member of your staff. If that is not possible, we would appreciate whatever written material you can provide that convey this information.

Thank you for your continued willingness to work with the communities affected by this project.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lievens
Londonderry Conservation Commission Chair