



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Minutes
Page 1 of 2

Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Ken Henault, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque, George Herrmann, Mark Oswald and Mike Speltz

Call to order; 7:30 P.M.

D. Lievens appointed G. Herrmann to vote for the Paul Nickerson.

New Commissioner- Ben LaBrecque was recently appointed and sworn as a full member to the Commission, filling Stephen Fassi's seat that was vacated at the end of 2008. Formal introductions were made and members welcomed him to the Commission.

Musquash Field Day- Commissioners reported that this year's Musquash Field Day was a great success with significantly more visitors in attendance than in previous years. With so many more people attending, it was noticed that the several pair of snowshoes annually provided by Eastern Mountain Sports would not be enough if future crowds were as large. G. Harrington suggested developing a policy to ensure an equitable distribution of the snowshoes available. M. Considine added that perhaps some could be borrowed from the Junior High School, which could bring the amount up to 20 or more. G. Harrington also suggested that for the benefit of the visiting public, a more set schedule for the yearly nature walks and presentations be advertised. D. Lievens thanked M. Considine for coordinating the event and G. Herrmann for his assistance.

Musquash signage/trails- A resident contacted D. Lievens in the fall of 2008 with concerns about the quality and quantity of signage and trail blazes in the Musquash Conservation Area. Since some residents have since expressed interest in helping perform any needed tasks, D. Lievens suggested having a planning session to help organize and educate the group about proper techniques. It was decided D. Lievens would first contact Londonderry Trailways President Scott Hamilton to gain his input and report back at the next meeting. She asked that at that time, the Commissioners also be ready with any suggestions or comments they may have.

CTAP- The New Hampshire Department of Transportation developed the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) to provide technical assistance regarding land use planning to the 26 NH towns affected by the expansion of I-93. M. Speltz reported that there is funding for approximately 16 of those 26 towns to put towards their open space plans. Londonderry's need to compete would be compounded by the fact that the Town's Open Space Plan is used as the very model in this program; hence, it may not be viewed as a priority for funding. M. Speltz therefore drafted a letter in lieu of the standard application explaining that Londonderry's plan still needs refining with regard to its costing model, i.e. calculating what it would cost the Town to acquire the land listed in the open space plan. The letter has been forwarded to the Community Development Director for his review and will be submitted before the February 26 deadline. **G. Harrington made a motion for the LCC to support M. Speltz's proposal. K. Henault seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

Purple loosestrife- D. Lievens announced that the annual effort to remove this invasive species from the wetland in the flax field on Pillsbury Road will take place the second and third weekends in July. As in past years, members of the New England Wildflower Society will be donating their time, particularly to help preserve the three rare plants on the NH endangered list that grow there. She asked if the LCC would be willing to provide a fee for service to cover the cost of gas for those volunteers. **G. Harrington made a motion to donate \$50 towards the NE Wildflower Society in order to support purple loosestrife removal at the flax field. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**



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Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Minutes
Page 2 of 2

Estey easement- The Estey family, owners of 3-100, 3-161 and 3-161-2, have agreed to the LCC's offer of \$1.028 million for an approximately 74 acre conservation easement on the aforementioned lots. Town Counsel is currently reviewing the draft easement and a public hearing will be held on February 24th. D. Lievens said she will invite the LCC's Town Council Liaison to attend and will have the meeting properly posted and advertised. M. Speltz suggested that a baseline study and hazardous material inspection be performed in addition to the due diligence always performed by the LCC when acquiring land and easements (e.g. a title search).

M. Oswald temporarily left the meeting.

Wiley Hill Road D+F- Londonderry's Public Works Department replaced a culvert on Wiley Hill Road (map and lot 5-18, 52 and 53) as part of an emergency road repair in the fall of 2008. Total wetland impacts amounted to 2,550 square feet, 1,050 of which were temporary. A six-foot wide by five-foot high box culvert was installed with gravel and granular fill inside to "mimic a natural stream channel condition." **M. Speltz made a motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Department of Environmental Services stating that the LCC is very pleased to know a box culvert with a natural bottom was used. There was further discussion, but the vote was omitted and will be finalized at the next meeting.**

Timber trespass- D. Lievens updated the LCC on this issue regarding 64 trees that were erroneously cut in the Musquash by a logger working on an abutting lot on Red Fern Circle. The logger, Albert Trepanier, has requested a Town representative join him for a site walk of the area. Town Counsel sent a letter to D. Lievens advising that such a visit be done after the snow has melted. Several dates in March will be offered to Mr. Trepanier to coordinate a meeting.

January 27, 2009 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2009 public session as written. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-2 (G. Herrmann and B. LaBrecque abstained as they had not attended the meeting).**

G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2009 non-public session as written. K. Henault seconded. The motion was approved 5-0-2 with the same abstentions noted above.

M. Oswald returned.

Linking land use and transportation- D. Lievens asked if Commissioners were aware of any efforts on Londonderry's part to avail itself of separate DOT & CTAP programs which would focus on adding such items as bike trails and sidewalks to developed areas. M. Speltz replied that Londonderry has not actually embarked upon any such projects (other than the Planning Board now requiring internal sidewalks in new developments), but will investigate the issue as a member of the CTAP Steering Committee and report back to the LCC.

G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Trottier
Secretary