



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Minutes

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1 **Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Ken Henault, Paul Nickerson, Ben**  
2 **LaBrecque, and Mike Speltz (late)**

3  
4 Call to order; 7:30 P.M.

5  
6 M. Considine left the meeting to attend a Londonderry Trailways meeting, stating he would return later  
7 to discuss issues regarding the Musquash Conservation Area.

8  
9 Page Road driveway D+F- A Dredge and Fill application had been presented to the LCC over the  
10 course their two October 2008 meetings because of a wetland crossing between two proposed lots of a  
11 three lot subdivision (parcels 17-30 and 17-30-1; see October 14 and 28, 2008 minutes). The LCC had  
12 suggested to the Wetlands Bureau that “the [1,376 square feet of] impact could be further reduced by a  
13 shared driveway crossing or eliminating the crossing completely by reconfiguring proposed lots 17-30-  
14 3 and 17-30-4 into one lot.”

15 Joe Wichert of Sublime Engineering returned with a Conditional Use Permit application for the  
16 impacts to the Conservation Overlay District buffer at the same crossing. Originally, 8,200 sf of buffer  
17 impact was anticipated but J. Wichert explained that the total is now 8,400 because of rip rap for an  
18 outlet pipe required by the Town’s Engineering Department. Mindful of the fact that the LCC had  
19 stressed a preference for a shared driveway, J. Wichert asked again that they consider: 1) a shared  
20 driveway would result in a request for a width of 20 to 22 feet, decreasing the wetlands impact by only  
21 300 to 350 sf and 2) a conscious effort was made to cross the wetland at its narrowest point at the  
22 expense of creating two odd shaped lots. He reiterated that a shared driveway would arguably  
23 decrease the property values of the lots and create easement issues that would further deter potential  
24 buyers.

25 D. Lievens reiterated the LCC’s initial stance that a shared driveway would be an acceptable  
26 alternative. P. Nickerson added the importance of avoiding disturbance to a limited resource such as  
27 wetlands. G. Harrington asked if the separate driveways could become shared just at the crossing. J.  
28 Wichert argued that complications would still arise over easement matters and that snow storage and  
29 plowing would be negatively affected. G. Harrington said he was not convinced that maintenance  
30 would suffer significantly, or that shared access at the crossing alone would devalue the properties.

31 Following further discussion, **P. Nickerson made a motion that the LCC not recommend**  
32 **approval of the CUP as presented to the Planning Board and instead recommend the Planning**  
33 **Board require a common driveway to lessen the wetland and buffer impact. G. Harrington**  
34 **seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-0.**

35  
36 Merrill easement- Ken Merrill had forwarded plans to the LCC regarding a Natural Resources  
37 Conservation Service drainage project to taking place this summer on map and lot 17-6 (see June 9  
38 minutes). He had asked if the LCC needed to review the plans because of the conservation easement  
39 on the property. They advised the Merrills to seek approval from the actual owner of the easement, the  
40 Rockingham County Conservation District. D. Lievens reported that the project was already approved  
41 by RCCD since it was made part of their original agreement with the Merrills.

42  
43 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- RCCD has submitted an application on behalf of the Town to  
44 obtain funding from the State’s Aquatic Resource Mitigation program to restore wetlands on map and  
45 lot 6-113 (see May 26, 2009 minutes). D. Lievens announced that the Department of Environmental  
46 Services has scheduled a site walk for July 8 at 12:30 PM. She will attempt to go and will ask



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47 Commissioner Truda Bloom if she can attend and photograph the area. P. Nickerson will also try to be  
48 present.

49 D. Lievens added that if the ARM grant were approved, the LCC would need to determine an  
50 access point to the property since the only current method is to seek permission from abutting  
51 landowners.

52  
53 Purple Loosestrife- During the above discussion of map and lot 6-113, D. Lievens informed the LCC  
54 that she can obtain Garucella beetles to combat the invasive species Purple Loosestrife in that wetland  
55 as well as in the Flax Field off Pillsbury Road. Although it is too soon to use the beetles, the window  
56 of opportunity to purchase 1,000 beetles for \$200 may close soon and is on a first come, first serve  
57 basis. D. Lievens said she could purchase a smaller amount, but it would probably cost more per  
58 beetle to do so. In the interest of having the beetles on hand in July when they will be needed, **G.**  
59 **Harrington made a motion to authorize the Chair to expend an amount not to exceed \$210 from**  
60 **the line item budget to purchase Garucella beetles, including shipping and handling charges. P.**  
61 **Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-0.**

62  
63 Accounts- **D. Lievens entertained a motion to reimburse the Chair \$55.79 from the line item**  
64 **budget for a seminar she attended on behalf of the LCC as well as long distance phone calls and**  
65 **postage for the 2009 fiscal year. K. Henault so moved. G. Harrington seconded. The motion**  
66 **was approved 4-0-1 with D. Lievens abstaining.**

67  
68 Mack- With the submission of a Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant application and  
69 approval by the Town Council to expend a sum not to exceed \$900,000, the LCC is moving forward  
70 with the purchase from Moose Hill Orchards of a conservation easement on map and lot 10-15. Town  
71 Counsel has been asked if a second public hearing is required to amend the agreement since the  
72 original included map and lot 9-49. Bart Mayer replied that although the first public hearing covered  
73 all of the issues "and then some," RSA 36-A:5 can be still open to interpretation. Since a court could  
74 consider the amendment to be an entirely separate transaction, he suggested it might be best to err on  
75 the side of caution and hold a second public hearing.

76  
77 M. Speltz arrived. D. Lievens appointed him to vote for Truda Bloom

78  
79 **G. Harrington made a motion that the LCC hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 14, to**  
80 **amend the proposed Mack conservation easement purchase project to include only map and lot**  
81 **10-15. K. Henault seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

82  
83 Manchester Airport master plan- D. Lievens will represent the LCC on June 24 at the first of several  
84 meetings intended to update the master plan of the Manchester Boston Regional Airport (see May 12  
85 minutes). She will provide a report at the next meeting.

86  
87 June 9, 2009 minutes- **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009**  
88 **public session as written. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-1 (K. Henault**  
89 **abstained as he had not attended the meeting).**

90 **P. Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 non-public session**  
91 **as written. G. Harrington seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0-1 with the same abstention**  
92 **noted above.**



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94 Commons Drive wetland- Jack Szemplinski, owner of Benchmark Engineering on map and lot 10-1C  
95 (1 Commons Drive), had asked for the LCC's input concerning an upcoming project and the potential  
96 impact of an abutting wetland. D. Lievens, G. Harrington and P. Nickerson performed a site visit  
97 shortly after the June 9 meeting. G. Harrington reported that the backup of water related to the soil  
98 disturbance from earlier construction created the wetland itself. The anticipated impact would be a  
99 minimal amount to a wet area attached to the larger wetland (a/k/a Duck Swamp). The consensus was  
100 that there should not be a problem altering the wetland but that mitigation may be required.

101

102 M. Considine returned

103

104 Musquash trails- M. Considine provided an update on the loop trail in the Musquash Conservation  
105 Area between Faucher and Alexander Roads. He has continued working with Boy Scout Russell Saur  
106 and the trail is very near completion. Russell will be blazing the trail this fall, as well as building a  
107 kiosk and bridge. M. Considine asked the Commissioners for their consensus regarding the kiosk's  
108 location and wording for the sign. It was decided that the likelihood of the kiosk being vandalized  
109 would be lowered if it were kept in the more visible location of the Faucher Road entrance. A smaller  
110 sign could be placed further into the woods where the trail actually begins, and various directional  
111 signs can be added. D. Lievens suggested using a locked Plexiglas cover on the front of the kiosk with  
112 a map identifying the user's location and the simple wording "Musquash Conservation Area."

113 A discussion ensued regarding an updated map of the Musquash and educating the public about  
114 the extensive trail system in Londonderry that has been made possible by the conservation efforts of  
115 the LCC and the work of Londonderry Trailways. It was suggested that The Londonderry Times be  
116 approached to write an article on the subject. K. Henault offered to contact Mike Cross of Moose Hill  
117 Orchards to see if the kiosk at their ice cream stand on Mammoth Road can identify that the trails  
118 throughout the orchards were "provided in cooperation with Trailways on land protected by the LCC."  
119 M. Speltz said he would contact GIS Manager John Vogl to inquire whether a layer can be added to the  
120 online town maps showing the trail network in town.

121

122 **G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. P. Nickerson seconded. The**  
123 **motion was approved, 6-0-0.**

124

125 Respectfully submitted,

126

127

128 Jaye Trottier

129 Secretary