



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Minutes

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1 **Present: Deb Lievens, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque and Mike Speltz.**

2
3 D. Lievens called the meeting to order at 7:30. She appointed M. Speltz to vote for Gene Harrington.

4
5 Musquash Field Day- D. Lievens read an email to LCC members from Commissioner Mike Considine,
6 describing what he felt was “the best [Musquash Field Day] that I have been involved in.” Along with
7 the large crowd and the variety of activities, he noted that Londonderry Trailways made a noteworthy
8 contribution by operating a table at the entrance to greet visitors. They provided general information
9 as well as an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of the Land Use Change Tax to
10 conservation efforts (see LUCT topic on page 2). He felt this may have contributed to the increase in
11 donations compared to past years. Instead of the typical small deficit, \$50 was collected to put back
12 into the Conservation Fund.

13
14 Musquash; Boy Scout Troop camping- Brian Williams, Leader of Boy Scout Troop 426, inquired
15 about his troop camping overnight in the Musquash Conservation Area in mid-March. Several adults
16 will accompany the Scouts and M. Considine commented via email that from his experience, this
17 particular group should not pose any issues. He verified their intention to camp off the main trails, in
18 the more remote locations of the Musquash. He also suggested to the LCC that notification be posted
19 at the Faucher Road trailhead to notify hikers that a group of Scouts is camping in the area.

20 **D. Lievens entertained a motion to approve the request of Boy Scout Troop 426 to camp**
21 **in the Musquash in mid-March. M. Speltz so moved. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was**
22 **approved, 4-0-0.**

23
24 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- M. Speltz reported that the Department of Environmental Services
25 has approved the grant agreement as well as the project agreement with some minor changes. He will
26 follow up on those when he meets with Lori Sommer on Thursday. She has also requested a more
27 explicit breakdown of the supplementary costs. The Town Council will eventually have to approve the
28 notice of grant agreement and executory interest.

29
30 Landscaping of public property- Paul Margolin, Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee,
31 asked D. Lievens if the LCC could recommend public sites that could benefit from recurring
32 landscaping. She responded that the LCC’s focus is not particularly relevant to activities such as
33 landscaping and suggested he might want to inquire with local businesses.

34
35 Mack- D. Lievens provided an update on the work being done to fulfill the requirements of the Farm
36 and Ranchland Protection Program grant to be used towards the purchase of a conservation easement
37 on map and lot 10-15.

38 At the February 9 meeting, D. Lievens reviewed the quotes she received from local engineers
39 for the required survey and monumentation. Benchmark Engineering gave a quote of \$7,500 for a
40 survey without monumentation while CLD Consulting Engineers would include bounds at a cost of
41 \$8,500. Since then, she has also heard from Promised Land Survey who quoted \$6,750 including
42 bounds and Eric Mitchell & Associates who will also include monuments at a cost of \$4,500. It is still
43 unclear whether the Macks would be willing to split the cost, however, they are not yet aware of these
44 lower bids. It was decided to hold off on initiating the survey until the appraisal is performed in case
45 the results lead to either side withdrawing from the agreement. Since E. Mitchell’s quote is valid for
46 30 days, the LCC asked D. Lievens to convey their acceptance of his proposal, conditioned upon an
47 extension of the offer to 90 days. **M. Speltz made a motion to authorize the Chair to enter into the**



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48 **contract submitted by Eric Mitchell, contingent upon his acceptance of the proposal being valid**
49 **for 90 days. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.**

50 D. Lievens received word from the Rockingham County Conservation District that the
51 Conservation Monitoring Fund will require a contribution of \$11,535. The cost has increased over
52 past projects, she explained, because RCCD has realized long term monitoring requires more sufficient
53 preliminary funding.

54 M. Speltz reported that a simplification of the 'two lot withdrawal' scenario was posed in a
55 recent meeting with both Andy Mack Sr. and Andy Mack Jr. A. Mack Sr.'s original intent was to
56 accommodate two farmers and their families with separate houses. This could also be accomplished
57 by building a duplex on one lot, thereby eliminating the need to subdivide off two lots. Ownership
58 would still have to be resolved since there are several possibilities such as one family owning and then
59 renting to the other, or both families renting from the Moose Hill Orchards, etc. A condominium
60 arrangement is another alternative, although it would be considered a subdivision by State statute.

61
62 Land Use Change Tax- Petition Article 15 of the Town Meeting Warrant seeks to "to place twenty
63 percent of revenues received from the LUCT in the Conservation Fund; currently, one hundred
64 percent...are placed in the Conservation Fund." Methods of conveying the LCC's position were
65 discussed, e.g. emails, letters to the editor, communication with local press, etc. D. Lievens reviewed a
66 letter she has composed for the local papers. Commissioners made suggestions and D. Lievens will
67 amend it accordingly. M. Speltz will be submitting another letter closer to the actual meeting date.
68 Asking various residents (aside from M. Speltz and D. Lievens) to speak at Town Meeting was also
69 discussed, as was networking to increase attendance of those who support conservation efforts.

70
71 February 9, 2010 minutes- **T. Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9,**
72 **2010 public session as written. B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 4-0-0.**

73
74 Reeds Ferry expansion site plan (2-34 and 34-3) DRC- No comments.

75
76 The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

77
78 Respectfully submitted,

79
80
81 Jaye Trottier
82 Secretary