



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Minutes
Page 1 of 3

Present: Deb Lievens, Gene Harrington, Mike Considine, Paul Nickerson, Truda Bloom, Ben LaBrecque, George Herrmann and Mike Speltz (late)

Also present: Brian Farmer, Town Council Liaison

Call to order; 7:30 P.M.

D. Lievens appointed G. Herrmann to vote for K. Henault.

Reimbursement re Musquash Field Day- M. Considine submitted receipts for materials purchased for the LCC's annual Musquash Field Day held on February 7th. D. Lievens noted that the overall expenses for the event were offset by the \$73 of donations collected, resulting in a total of \$48.95 to be reimbursed to M. Considine. **G. Herrmann made a motion to authorize the Chair to expend an amount not to exceed \$48.95 from the line item budget to reimburse M. Considine for expenses associated with Musquash Field Day. P. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1 (M. Considine abstained).**

Wiley Hill Road D+F- At their February 10th meeting, the LCC reviewed a D+F permit submitted by Londonderry's Public Works Department to replace a culvert on Wiley Hill Road (map and lots 5-18, 52 and 53). M. Speltz had 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 at the time, however the second and final vote were erroneously omitted. D. Lievens therefore entertained a motion to make the same authorization. **G. Harrington 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 is being used in the aforementioned project. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.**

February 10, 2009 minutes- Prior to the meeting, Mike Speltz noted the word "acre" was missing from the first sentence under the topic "Estey easement" on page two. **G. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10 2009 public session with the addition of the word "acre". B. LaBrecque seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-1 (P. Nickerson abstained as he had not attended the meeting).**

Intent to cut; 8-12- In December, 2008 the LCC received a Notice of Intent to Cut Timber from the Assessor's office regarding map and lot 8-12 which is owned by the Londonderry Fish and Game Club. While the application stated the total area of land involved is 85 acres, 8-12 has less than 34 acres and the LCC had wondered whether F&G'S abutting lot 8-13 was involved as well. M. Considine reported at this meeting that the Rod and Gun Club are actively logging on 8-12 around the gun range but are not clear cutting and seem to be leaving a buffer between the range and the power lines to the southwest.

M. Speltz arrived.

Land Use Change tax- B. Farmer explained to LCC members that the Town Council will hold a special meeting on Sunday, March 1st to discuss the Town Manager's proposed budget cuts in light of the possibility of losing \$1.33 million in State funding. One potential source of revenue under consideration is the redirecting of Land Use Change taxes to the general fund and therefore away from the Open Space fund. Under the proposal, monies currently in the account would still be used for open space but would be redirected from this point forward and could total up to \$200,000. He acknowledged the short notice of this plan but stated the Town was



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Minutes

Page 2 of 3

also given short notice by the State about the significant loss of revenue. The Town is currently looking into whether a special Town Meeting can be held and whether specific language can be used whereby the Town budget can be revisited once the State budget is finalized. He urged the LCC to attend the meeting to hear all the specifics and provide input the Council needs in determining the overall budget.

Towards the end of the meeting, the topic was addressed again and M. Speltz offered to attend the Sunday meeting to represent the LCC. D. Lievens will also write a letter on behalf of the LCC, stating that while they appreciate the urgency of the economic situation, there are still several important reasons why the funding should not be taken away. Concerns were expressed over the precedent that would be set by this action. It was suggested language be developed to clarify that the change would only be temporary and that if the shortfall is less than expected, the funds will be directed back to open space. M. Speltz stated that the Town should be advised against depleting their own investment account. The intent of utilizing the land use change tax for conservation, he continued, is to balance between development and the rural character of the town. The misconception that open space is a luxury needs to be replaced with the fact that while it may produce luxuries in terms of views and recreation, it really provides necessities such as clean air and water, food, protection from flooding, etc. P. Nickerson added that since no bonds have passed for open space at the last two Town Meetings, this would be the only available funding to preserve open space and protect those resources.

Public hearing- The Londonderry Conservation Commission entered into a public hearing at 7:45 PM regarding the purchase of a conservation easement on map and lots 3-100, 3-162 and 3-161-2. The public hearing was closed at 8:30 and **the LCC voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that the Town proceed with the purchase and sale agreement regarding a conservation easement on map and lots 3-100, 3-162 and 3-161-2.** (See separate Public Hearing minutes).

B. Farmer left the meeting.

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 invited Londonderry Trailways President Scott Hamilton to this meeting for a preliminary discussion. M. Considine offered to contact the resident who first approached D. Lievens and will begin coordinating, prioritizing and strategizing with volunteers. D. Lievens added that she will contact National Grid as she has several times in the past to see whether a trail can be put on their lot 8-17 which would connect the George property (5-12) to the Musquash.

CTAP- M. Speltz drafted a letter to seek funding from the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) and asked the Community Development Director to review it before submitting it by the February 26th deadline (see January 13th and February 10th minutes). D. Lievens offered to follow up with the Director about that submission.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund- D. Lievens and G. Harrington attended this meeting on February 17th regarding DES wetland restoration plans. Approximately \$600,000 has accumulated to date for the Merrimack River valley and the grant process is underway. D. Lievens estimates that roughly \$150,000 of that money has come from projects in Londonderry that had to mitigate wetland impacts with a monetary donation. Several possible projects have been identified in Londonderry, one of which is a swamp on property owned by Reed Clark off Litchfield Road. D. Lievens reported that R. Clark has expressed interest in the restoration effort. Grant applications will be forthcoming and M. Speltz emphasized the importance of submitting as early as possible.



Londonderry Conservation Commission

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Minutes

Page 3 of 3

DRC-

1) Freedom Fuels site plan, 10-136

Comments: Respect the green setback on the southwest side (and whole property). We recommend reducing the parking on the southeast side to buffer the stream out of Wheeler Pond.

G. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. T. Bloom seconded. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Trottier
Secretary