



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Minutes

1 **Present:** Marge Badois, Chair; Gene Harrington, Vice Chair; Deb Lievens, member; Mike Byerly, member;
2 Bob Maxwell, member; and Susan Malouin, member; and Mike Speltz, alternate member

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4 **Absent:** Jocelyn Demas, alternate member

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6 **Also present:** Amy Kizak, GIS Manager/Comprehensive Planner; Officer Aprile; and Beth Morrison,
7 Recording Secretary

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9 Marge Badois called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She appointed M Speltz to vote for the open
10 position.

11 **Wetland Permit: Service Road Reconstruction and Stream Restoration, Manchester-Boston Regional**
12 **Airport – Map/Lots 013-043-0 & 028-019-1** – Kimberly Peace, Associate, Senior Environmental
13 Coordinator, and Deb Coon, Environmental Coordinator, from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc., 150 Dow
14 Street, #402, Manchester, and Luis Elguezabal Assistant Airport Director, addressed the Commission. K
15 Peace started out informing the Commission that the project is to repave and resurface a surface road at
16 the end of the runway. She reviewed the parcel with the Commission. She noted that the road is
17 weathered and cracking and needs to be repaved. She referenced a picture of the weathered road
18 explaining that the ditch and swale are becoming flooded, which becomes a big ice pond. She said that
19 this service road needs to be operational all the time for airport operations and the airport spends a lot
20 of effort to keep the road unfrozen. She explained that the drainage ditch was created when the runway
21 was extended, as the stream system was essentially rerouted and altered in order to flow through the
22 drainage swale system. She added that the stream does not really flow that well, noting that there are
23 pictures in the wetland report where there are places that it is ponded and vegetation has grown in,
24 which will hold sediment and create more ponding. She said that another reason they are concerned
25 about this swale is that it is within the take off and approach surfaces to the airport. She said that the air
26 planes need a clear path and cannot have vegetation, as the vegetation is attracting birds. She
27 commented that they did a site walk with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
28 (NHDES) and New Hampshire Fish & Game two summers ago to look at the swale and discuss the
29 proposal. She went on stating that the proposal is to dredge and realign the swale so that it drains. She
30 discussed that they are proposing to shift the existing wildlife fence, which will allow the airport
31 operation staff access to the swale. She reviewed the wetland impacts noting they run the length of the
32 stream. She pointed out one spot where there is a permanent impact. She said that the rest of the
33 stream trail is dredging, which is temporary impact because they are returning it to the original design
34 contours. D Lievens asked for clarification. K Peace illustrated where the wildlife fence currently runs on
35 the map, noting it is between the swale and the road. She added that the pipe is a 54-inch pipe, which is
36 larger than the upstream pipe at Harvey Road, which will prevent a flooding hazard in the future. M
37 Speltz asked why the wildlife track would be inside the fence, where they have more access to the
38 runway. K Peace replied that the wildlife fence initially left the stream on the outside due to the concern



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Minutes

39 that M Speltz raised. She stated that they are trying to create a flowing stream rather than the semi-
40 ponded areas that are there right now. She mentioned that this shift will have the animals run along the
41 fence and they will not be attracted to the stream. M Speltz asked the width of the streambed in the
42 culvert. K Peace replied that the goal is to have a four-foot wide opening. M Speltz asked why they chose
43 this culvert. K Peace replied that there are several reasons, such as a box culvert is more expensive than
44 a pipe and to address the hydraulic needs they do not need to go as large as a box culvert. D Lievens
45 asked what happens in the north end. K Peace reviewed the stream on the map with the Commission,
46 noting it enters a 36-inch pipe, goes underground, comes around and goes into the culvert, right before
47 the Little Cohas Brook. D Lievens commented that it becomes a much more functional stream. K Peace
48 replied that is correct and noted it is Tier 1 stream. M Badois asked if this is south of the Rail Trail
49 crossing. K Peace replied that is correct. M Speltz asked if the plan is to run the trail along the existing
50 fence line. K Peace replied that she does not know. A Kizak mentioned that this is the proposed plan and
51 reviewed the proposed location. L Elguezabal also reviewed the proposed fence line on the map with
52 the Commission. Officer Aprile commented that this service road is the only way law enforcement can
53 get to the other side of the airport and he can attest it is bad, especially in the winter time. M Speltz
54 commented that the stream bed is 48-inches across the bottom, which means that the culvert is
55 probably half full of stream bottom and dirt. K Peace said that they did a hydraulic comparison of the
56 upstream and downstream culvert openings and they made sure that the culvert was sized correctly so
57 that everything would flow through. M Speltz asked if they coordinated with New Hampshire Fish &
58 Game. K Peace replied that they did. M Badois pointed out that New Hampshire Fish & Game usually are
59 not on board with using riprap. K Peace explained that New Hampshire Fish & Game is on board with
60 riprap and reviewed their proposal. M Byerly asked if the airport uses sand and salt to deal with the ice.
61 L Elguezabal replied that it is sanded only, they cannot use any salt or sodium in this area inside the
62 airport. He added that they can have six inches to a foot of ice in this area where they will use
63 mechanical means to break it up. D Lievens asked when this project will commence. L Elguezabal replied
64 that he believes spring 2023. G Harrington made a motion that the Commission has no objections to the
65 wetland permit. M Byerly seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.

66 **Unfinished Business**

67 **Monitoring:** M Badois said that they will be monitoring the Plummer property this Saturday. She added
68 that there are some things that need to be monitored before the end of the year and the spreadsheet
69 should have this information. She noted that Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) monitors
70 Merrill and Ingersoll. M Speltz explained that the Commission has to monitor the parcels that they
71 received grants for and they have also signed up with Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices which
72 requires the Commission to monitor all their properties every year. M Badois said that the Commission
73 will need to have someone else take over the monitoring log as Jocelyn Demas can no longer be on the
74 Commission when her term expires. M Byerly volunteered to take this over.

75 **Eversource:** M Badois informed the Commission that she has been in communication with Eversource
76 again regarding the request for a parking lot at Hickory Hill. She said that she was asked to provide a
77 diagram of what the Commission is proposing in place of a culvert. She commented that John Trottier,



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Minutes

78 Director of Department of Public Works and Engineering, has offered to work with her on this. She
79 mentioned that Eversource’s concerns were about going under the wires, the culvert and opening it up
80 to make it easier access for ATVs, which have all been resolved. She mentioned that she is going to talk
81 to J Trottier to see if staff can help with construction.

82 **NHACC:** M Badois told the Commission that she attended the NHACC zoom conference. She said that
83 she watched two presentations. She said that one was about surface water protection and ways to help
84 water flow. She noted that one thing that caught her attention was they suggested the scoring should
85 be adjusted when looking at conservation land to give more credit to conservation land that is not near
86 other conservation land. She went on stating that this is because underserved communities should have
87 more access to nature as it is stress relieving. D Lievens mentioned that she does not think this is a
88 problem in Londonderry and would be more relevant to urban cities. M Speltz reminded the
89 Commission that the Town’s Open Space Plan gives a bonus score to parcels that ensure that residents
90 have at least 10 acres of conservation land within a 10 minute walk of their residence. M Badois asked if
91 the Commission has any amphibian crossing signs. D Lievens said that South Road could have them with
92 the vernal pools. G Harrington pointed out that it takes people going out in the evening in the spring to
93 see if there are amphibians crossing.

94 **Wetlands council:** D Lievens informed the Commission that she thinks they need to put their thinking
95 caps on for culvert projects to submit for grants next year. She said that there is a website that has the
96 stream crossings referenced on it and this can be used to help with projects. M Speltz commented that
97 he believes the Commission talks about this topic every four months. He noted that the culverts in town
98 have been assessed. He added that the ARM website has sensitive information, such as well head
99 protection areas, so you need to register to use it. M Badois said that J Trottier is convinced that this
100 process would be a nightmare of restrictions. D Lievens volunteered to talk to J Trottier and start
101 researching it.

102 **Open Positions:** M Byerly asked if there were any applicants. A Kizak replied that there have been
103 none. M Badois asked how the Commission can network for this.

104 **Conservation Ranger:** Officer Aprile told the Commission that he received a call for a sick racoon at
105 Woodland Village. He noted that when he arrived on site, the racoon had been killed, as it attacked the
106 resident that called him about it. He pointed out that the resident had three scratches on his hand. He
107 commented that he took the racoon to New Hampshire Fish & Game headquarters for testing and it
108 came back positive for rabies. He said that he has put down two to three sick animals a week. D Lievens
109 asked if the rabies cycle through. Officer Aprile replied that this is all new to him and he is working with
110 New Hampshire Fish & Game. G Harrington mentioned that everyone should be on the lookout,
111 especially in the area of the racoon that had rabies for sick animals. Officer Aprile noted that there is a
112 coyote with mange that has been seen, but has not caused any concern. G Harrington asked if Officer
113 Aprile was called for someone that fell and injured their leg on Overlook trail. Officer Aprile replied that
114 it was his day off, so he was not called. He pointed out that tomorrow starts rifle hunting season.



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Minutes

115 **Other Business**

116 **Minutes:** The Commissioners went over the public minutes of October 26, 2021. B Maxwell made a
117 motion to approve the minutes as amended. M Speltz seconded the motion. The motion passed,7-0-0.

118 **Adjournment:** M Byerly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. D Lievens seconded the
119 motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.

120 Respectfully Submitted,
121 Beth Morrison
122 Recording Secretary