



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Minutes

1 **Present:** Marge Badois, Chair; Gene Harrington, Vice Chair; Mike Noone, member; Bob Maxwell,
2 member; Mike Byerly, member; Roger Fillio, member; alternate member Mike Speltz, alternate member
3 and Richard Floyd, alternate member
4

5 **Absent:** Deb Lievens, member; Julie Christenson-Collins, alternate member; and Ted Combes, Town
6 Council member
7

8 **Also present:** Joshua Megyesy, Melissa Doperalski and Beth Morrison, Recording Secretary
9

10 Marge Badois called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She appointed R Floyd to vote for D Lievens.

11 **Joshua Megyesy and Melissa Doperalski, NH Fish & Game - Blanding's turtles:** J Megyesy introduced
12 himself to the Commission. He reviewed the 2012 state wildlife grant that identified areas for Blanding's
13 turtles, in which the Musquash area was identified as one of the highest priorities in the state. He stated
14 the population of Blanding's turtles at Musquash is between 230-235 with a lot of juveniles. He stated
15 that they would be re-trapping turtles, looking for primarily females, and putting on radio transmitters
16 and GPS on to try and determine where the turtles go to nest. M Badois asked if the turtles return to the
17 same nesting spot each year. J. Megyesy stated that they do go back to the same nesting spot each year.
18 M Speltz asked if this project would be focusing just on Blanding's turtles. J. Megyesy stated the
19 Blanding's turtles are the big focus, but there is another grant for spotted turtles as well. He concluded
20 by asking for the Commissions permission to trap both species of turtles and put on radio transmitters in
21 the Musquash. M Badois asked if this would end in the summer. J. Megyesy stated that it would run
22 from April to November and it will stop when the turtles go into hibernation. M Speltz asked if NH Fish &
23 Game had done a study like this before. J. Megyesy answered that he thought it was a UNH study. M
24 Speltz informed J Megyesy that the Commission is closing on a 70 acre parcel one mile south of the
25 Musquash that is a Tier 1 habitat and asked if that land would be of any interest. J Megyesy stated that
26 he would be interested and could possibly do a site walk, visual survey or rapid trap assessment to see
27 what species are captured there. M Byerly asked if NH Fish & Game tracks juveniles as well. J Megyesy
28 stated that it is not really the focus as they want to track females who might live to be 60-70 years old to
29 study how they survived for so long. R Fillio made a motion to support the NH Fish & Game project
30 involving trapping Blanding's and spotted turtles and placing radio transmitters on them in the
31 Musquash. G Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0. M Byerly commented that the
32 Commission tries to do something once a month with the public and wondered if there would be an
33 opportunity for the public to watch some of the project. J Megyesy asked how many people generally
34 come out. M Byerly stated it could be from five to fifteen people. J Megyesy stated that it could be
35 arranged.



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36 Melissa Doperalski stated that this Thursday morning, Charlie and Matt will be meeting at Faucher Road
37 at 08:30 a.m. for a site walk that might last two hours and would love for any Commission members who
38 are available to come. M Speltz asked how the New England cottontail project was going. M Doperlaski
39 stated that Musquash 1 was assessed last spring and was found to be low on stem density. She stated
40 that rabbits like thicker habitat and the best way to get this to respond was to mow it. M Speltz asked if
41 NH Fish & Game would still maintain the trail. M Doperalski stated they would. She also stated that the
42 Cooper lot will be followed up after the mowing of the Musquash. M Speltz asked how close they were
43 to bringing in rabbits. M Doperalski stated that there is still breeding work that is happening and she was
44 not sure.

45 **Old Business**

46 **Kendall Pond:** B Maxwell informed the Commission about the research that he did regarding cameras.
47 He stated that there were some questions for the Commission to go over regarding what type of camera
48 to purchase. He noted there are real time cameras versus archive access cameras with a card. He stated
49 that a camera with a card would require someone to access the camera to change out the card. He
50 stated that a real time camera is through a cell phone link and was more expensive. M Speltz stated that
51 if the camera would be accessible to the Commission, it would also be accessible for vandalism. B
52 Maxwell stated that the police had one stolen, so it would need to be in a box high up in a tree, which
53 could be accessed by a ladder, to protect against vandalism. M Badois asked if the Commission should
54 put the camera on a pole instead of a tree. B Maxwell stated that if it was on a pole, everyone would
55 know where the camera is. M Byerly stated in his opinion, it might be best to get two cameras, so if one
56 were to get vandalized, the other camera might record it. M Speltz stated in his opinion, he did not think
57 the Commission should commit to a camera unless someone is identified, for example the Commission
58 or the police department, who wants to scroll through the pictures. He commented that this discussion
59 brings to mind the park ranger position and asked M Badois if there was any news regarding the
60 position. M Badois stated that there has been no further discussion regarding this position. M Noone
61 stated that in his opinion, he thought the Commission had to get a camera, put up hours of operation,
62 amend the current ordinance and put up proper signage for Kendall Pond to be reopened. M Badois
63 stated that Steve Cotton is going to help her with the ordinance and signage. M Badois reiterated that
64 only the parking area is being closed, not the park. M Speltz offered to draft an email to the assistant
65 town solicitor regarding the hours of operation to be added to the ordinance. M Badois reviewed the
66 hours that the Commission's wants: 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Daylight savings time) and 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the
67 winter. M Byerly made a motion to authorize B Maxwell to spend up to \$500 for a camera, an accessory
68 card and lock box from the line item budget. M Noone seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.



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69 **JNC:** M Speltz stated he sent an email to Kevin Smith, Town Manager, regarding the Commission's
70 concerns about the JNC process that were brought up at the last meeting. He stated that he thought of
71 three improvements to recommend:

72 1. To make the Town Council part of the initial briefing.

73 2. To make the Assistant Solicitor a member of the JNC and make the Planning Department
74 representative an ex-officio member, as there is a potential for a conflict of interest.

75 3. To make the Assistant Solicitor the physical point of contact between the JNC and the seller.

76 M Byerly asked if the Planning Board member would be a voting member. M Speltz stated they would
77 not. M Byerly stated there would only be 4 voting members in that case and it could be a 2/2 tie. M
78 Speltz stated that there are five voting members: 2 Commission members, 1 Town Council member, 1 at
79 large member and the Town Manager. M Byerly suggested that in the event of a 2/2 tie, the Town
80 Manager would be the deciding vote.

81 **Saving Special Places:** M Badois stated that if anyone wants to attend, the deadline to sign up for the
82 discounted rate is tomorrow. M Speltz stated that he is not a voting member, but would hope the
83 Commission could support those members that wanted to go, but could not afford it. R Fillio made a
84 motion for the Commission to pay for any member who would like to attend the conference. M Noone
85 seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.

86 **Kendall Pond - Town Council meeting:** M Badois stated that a resident mentioned providing bags to
87 clean up after one's dog, but she did not think this made sense as the Commission is looking to remove
88 the trash barrels and enforce the carry in/carry out rule. She also stated that it was brought up that the
89 Commission should have a signs at all the locations stating: "Use at your own risk. We are not
90 responsible." M Badois stated that the Commission does not have a sign like that and would check with
91 the Town Manager or Steve Cotton as to the reasoning.

92 **New Business:**

93 **Musquash cut:** M Badois stated that they had trouble getting the loggers in the Musquash this winter
94 and are going to do the cut now and another cut in the fall.

95 **Minutes:** The Commissioners went over the public minutes from February 27, 2018. B Maxwell made a
96 motion to accept the minutes as amended. M Noone seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-0-1
97 with M Byerly abstaining.



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98 The Commissioners went over the public minutes from March 20, 2018. G Harrington made a motion to
99 accept the minutes as amended. B Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0-2 with R Fillio
100 and R Floyd abstaining.

101 **Wetland Permit:** The Commissioners reviewed the wetland permit and commented that they would like
102 to have someone come to a meeting and explain it to them. M Badois explained that the Commission
103 has 14 days to make a recommendation and the Commission will not meet again before the 14 days are
104 up and therefore will need to file an extension. M Badois stated she would email Laura Gandia to let her
105 know about the extension.

106 **Adjournment:** M Byerly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 09:30 p.m. G Harrington seconded
107 the motion. The motion passed, 7-0-0.

108 Respectfully Submitted,
109 Beth Morrison
110 Recording Secretary