



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Minutes

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

5 **Absent:** Deb Lievens, member; Mike Speltz, alternate member and Ted Combes, Town Council member
6

7 **Also present:** Ray Breslin, Londonderry resident, Matt Cardin, Eversource, Kris Wilkes, VHB; Jack
8 Szemplinski, Benchmark; John Kalantzakos, Mesiti Development; Rick Welch, Mesiti Development and
9 Beth Morrison, Recording Secretary
10

11 Marge Badois called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She appointed J Christenson-Collins to vote for D
12 Lievens.

13 **Ray Breslin, 3 Gary Drive:** Ray Breslin introduced himself to the Commission. He stated that his concern
14 is water and environmental protection, and he has been educating himself about these topics. He is
15 concerned about the water in Londonderry with all the developments that are taking place. He
16 explained that he would like to form a water protection committee in town and would like the
17 Commission to help with this. He stated that children and older people would be the most affected by
18 contaminated water. M Badois asked if the Town Council has responded to his request for a water
19 protection committee. R Breslin stated they had not. He stated that he has had many meetings with
20 Kevin Smith, Town Manager and a conversation with Jim Butler, Town Council. On a different topic,
21 (land and water protection) R Breslin mentioned that he thought it was important for the Commission to
22 work with other conservation groups, such as the Audubon Society, to have them help with this. M
23 Badois stated that the Commission does work with other groups, such as New Hampshire Fish and Game
24 (NHFG) and Southeast Land Trust (SELT), to protect land. M Badois stated that she felt that the
25 Commission should participate in a water resource task force and would try to see if she could get a
26 response. She noted that water testing was on the budget for \$35,000, which was encouraging to her
27 that the Town Council was listening to the needs to help protect the water. R Breslin went off the topic,
28 stating that in his opinion the Commission should not give money to the Rail Trail, as it is a nonprofit and
29 raises money from large companies. He then spoke about the Griffin Road parcel, stating that he
30 thought it was a great deal for the developer, but not for the town, in his opinion. M Badois explained
31 that the Commission has done its due diligence in investigating the Griffin Road parcel and is satisfied
32 about the price. R Breslin asked if it would be a warrant article. M Badois stated that it would not. M
33 Byerly explained that the money would come out of the Conservation Fund, which already exists, so
34 there would be no tax impact, but would require approval from the Town Council. R Breslin stated that
35 was not free money because that money could be in the General Fund. M Byerly stated that was
36 incorrect as money in the Conservation Fund could never go into the General Fund.



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Minutes

37 **Cross Farm:** Jack Szemplinski, Benchmark Engineering, Rick Welch and John Kalantzakos, Mesti
38 Development, introduced themselves to the Commission. J Kalantzakos stated they have been working
39 with New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG) to identify conservation areas that NHFG wants Cross Farm
40 to put under easement. He stated that they have to determine if the easement would be under the
41 Town, under the Commission, under a land trust or some other option. He pointed to a map and noted
42 there is one easement that is 8 acres by Cross Road and another easement that is 26 acres on the
43 southwest side of the property. He stated that in the packet he sent the Commission there is a wetlands
44 mapping from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), where a wetland was
45 identified, as wetland 1, in the middle of the parcel, which NHDES would like to include in the easement
46 as well. He pointed to the southwest corner of the map and stated this would protect Blanding turtles
47 and noted that Cross Farm gave up a cul-de-sac here losing 9 units. He stated that for the southwest
48 easement, Cross Farm would like to keep "passive recreational uses" in the language, such as having a
49 picnic area there. He pointed to the 8 acre easement stating that language would be more restrictive
50 because of the findings of cotton tail rabbits. He asked if the Commission would be interested in holding
51 the easements and who Cross Farm's attorney would work with on getting the language right. G
52 Harrington asked if Cross Farm is proposing to add wetland 1 to the easement. J Kalantzakos stated they
53 would. M Badois stated that Cross Farm should work with M Speltz from the Commission as he has gone
54 through this before. J Kalantzakos asked if the Commission wanted the easements or if this was going to
55 be left up to M Speltz. M Badois stated that all the easements the Commission holds add to the
56 Commission's workload because the Commission needs to monitor them. G Harrington also added that
57 all the easements the Commission holds are open to the public and these specifically are not and
58 therefore conflicts with the Commission's mission. J Kalantzakos asked if it needed to be public would M
59 Speltz be able to help with this. M Badois stated that M Speltz is very knowledgeable in this subject. M
60 Badois stated she would talk to M Speltz and have him call J Kalantzakos.

61 **326 Line Structure Replacement Wetlands Permit Application:** Matt Cardin, Eversource and Kris
62 Wilkes, VHB introduced themselves to the Commission. M Cardin stated that they are here with a
63 permit for structure replacements along the 326 line that Eversource has determined are deficient and
64 at risk for structure failures, which are all currently wooden structures to be replaced with steel
65 structures. He noted that there are several wetland crossings with temporary wetland impacts
66 associated with the project. K Wilkes pointed out that this is a routine maintenance project that is 18
67 miles long, which starts at the Scobie Pond substation in Londonderry and travels through Hudson and a
68 small portion of Pelham. He explained that the project is to replace 42 existing overhead transmission
69 structures currently proposed to begin in March and extend through June. He pointed out that the
70 structures have been identified as deficient due to age, woodpecker damage or underground wiring that
71 is exposed. M Noone asked if they are only replacing deficient poles. K Wilkes stated that was correct. M
72 Noone asked why they would not replace everything since the work was already being done. K Wilkes



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Minutes

73 stated that this is just focused on structures that are at risk and noted that some structures have been
74 replaced over the years. M Cardin stated that it would not be feasible for Eversource to allocate all of its
75 resources for a whole line rebuild when there are other lines that have the same risk. M Byerly stated
76 that it seemed as if Eversource would be back every year to replace damaged structures. M Cardin
77 stated there is a big initiative to replace all wooden poles with steel because of recent structure fires. M
78 Badois asked if it was arson. M Cardin stated it was not, but instead hardware related to exposed
79 grounding wires. R Fillio asked if they check the structures every year. M Cardin stated it was not every
80 year, but more like a 2-3 year cycle with helicopter fly overs more frequently. K Wilkes noted that 10 out
81 of the 42 structures are located in Londonderry. K Wilkes stated that there is 72,951 SF of temporary
82 wetland impact and 808 SF of temporary stream impact proposed in Londonderry. He stated that no
83 additional permanent impacts are proposed. He noted that through correspondence with the Planning
84 department, a conditional use permit (CUP) is not required. K Wilkes stated that in coordination with
85 NHFG there is a mitigation plan for endangered species, such as the northern black racer, spotted turtle
86 and Blanding turtle. He stated that NHFG recommended doing daily sweeps before any work has started
87 to make sure no animals are hurt. M Byerly asked if they anticipated widening the roads to get
88 equipment in. K Wilkes stated that because of the recent project in this area, the roads have been
89 widened or improved, so there is good access. He noted that there would be timber mats on wetland
90 crossings and adjacent to wetlands. He pointed out that there are invasive species here and there will be
91 precautions taken to help prevent the spread. He stated that he expects the restoration to be minimal
92 for this project. He asked if the Commissioners had any additional questions and there were none.

93 **Old Business**

94 **New trail maps:** M Noone passed out the new trail maps to the Commissioners. He stated that he
95 would like a news article about the new maps in the Londonderry Times. M Byerly stated he would write
96 something up for the newsletter.

97 **Kendall Pond:** M Badois informed the Commission that there are trees down blocking off the entrance
98 to Kendall Pond now. She stated she checked with Lisa Drabik regarding the gate and was told that Steve
99 Cotton is looking into it. She also stated that there has been nothing done with the ordinance yet and
100 that Lisa Drabik will keep M Badois informed. B Maxwell asked who would open and close the gate. M
101 Badois stated that was what needed to be figured out. G Harrington asked if a neighbor was going to
102 install a camera. M Badois stated that she hoped so because she thought surveillance would be key for
103 this area. M Badois noted that she wants to stay on top of this issue to hopefully get Kendall Pond fully
104 re-opened in the spring.

105



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Minutes

106 **ARM Workshop:** M Badois stated that the workshop will be held on January 24, 2018, in the Moose Hill
107 Conference room from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. She noted that it is free to register.

108 **Monitoring reports for NHDOT mitigation sites off South Road:** G Harrington informed the Commission
109 that he read over the reports. He stated that the report specified planting black berry bushes with
110 thorns but the plants that arrived are thorn less. He also stated that there are a number of invasive
111 species and something should be done to remove them as this area is predisposed to seasonal flooding.
112 M Badois asked if that would be the Commission's responsibility. G Harrington stated it would not, as it
113 is a NHDOT site.

114 **Policies:** M Byerly informed the Commission that he updated the policies to reflect G Harrington's
115 changes. He stated he would send M Badois a copy digitally. M Badois stated she would forward this to
116 Planning and the Town Clerk.

117 **New Business:**

118 **Musquash Field Day:** M Badois stated that Fred Gorman has retired and she spoke to his replacement,
119 Greg Jordan, who would be interested in doing a presentation. M Badois asked if a presentation on
120 timber cuts would be a good idea. M Noone stated that he thought it would be, as it is happening now.
121 R Fillio asked if M Badois was interested in David Ellis presenting cellar holes, and she answered that she
122 was. G Harrington stated that he would like to see a schedule posted. J Christenson-Collins stated that
123 the school will not make copies of the flyers to hand out to students and would check with South School
124 about putting it in the electronic weekly newsletter. M Byerly stated that the Commission should put
125 this out on social media. M Badois stated that she would compile the shopping list. M Byerly informed
126 the Commission that he does not have firewood to use this year.

127 **Educational signs of the Rail Trail:** M Badois stated that she is looking for ideas about what locations
128 the Commission would like to promote and what educational topics the Commission would like to
129 promote. M Byerly gave an example of a peat bog for an educational topic. G Harrington stated that he
130 would like a sign where there is peak traffic.

131 **NHACC survey:** M Badois passed out the survey to the Commissioners to complete.

132 **Update on Griffin Road from Town Council meeting:** M Byerly informed the Commission that the
133 Council is continuing the case until February 5, 2018. He explained that John Farrell, Town Council, keep
134 referring to some information that Kevin Smith, Town Manager, had sent him related to this that no one
135 else on the Town Council received, so the case was continued so the information could be reviewed. He
136 noted that it seemed like the consensus of the Council was a yes for the Town to buy the land, but they
137 are not convinced about the price.



Londonderry Conservation Commission
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Minutes

138 **Minutes:** The Commissioners went over the public minutes from December 12, 2017. G Harrington
139 made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. R Fillio seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-
140 0-2, with B Maxwell and R Floyd abstaining.

141 **Adjournment:** M Byerly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. G Harrington seconded the
142 motion. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

143 Respectfully Submitted,
144 Beth Morrison
145 Recording Secretary