



Londonderry Conservation Commission
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
Minutes

1 ~~AAAAAA~~Marge Badois, Chair; G Harrington, Vice Chair; Deb Lievens, member; Bob Maxwell, member;
2 Susan Malouin, member; and David Heafey, member

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4 ~~AAAAA~~ Mike Speltz, alternate member

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6 ~~AA AAAAAA~~ Amy Kizak, GIS Manager/Comprehensive Manager; and Beth Morrison, Recording
7 Secretary

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9 Marge Badois called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

10 ~~A A AAAAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA AA AAAAAA SAAAAA AAA AAAAA~~ Kris van Naerssen, PWS,
11 AECOM Wetland Ecologist/Project Manager started off the discussion this evening informing the
12 Commission this Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is for the Eversource T-155 Transmission Line Structure
13 Replacement Project. K van Naerssen explained that the project is for continued safety and liability of
14 the transmission system that is located in the northwest portion of town, crossing Litchfield Road and
15 Acorn Drive. He went on stating that the project itself spans two miles, between the Watts Brook
16 substation and then crosses the Merrimack River and ends up at the north Merrimack substation. He
17 pointed out that there is one mile of the project in Londonderry, with structures that are labeled #1-9 in
18 the CUP packet. He noted that the project is the replacement of existing wooden overhead transmission
19 line structures with weathered steel monopole structures. He mentioned that structure #6 is located in
20 the Conservation Overlay District (COD) that is associated with Watts Brook and with both structure #4
21 and structure #5 there is a small wetland impact. He mentioned that the contractors will first establish
22 access roads or use existing access roads where possible and build a work pad, that is approximately
23 100-feet by 100-feet. He said that they would then bring the equipment in, install the new structure and
24 then they will install OBGW, which is a communication wire installed between the two substations. He
25 commented that the timber mating would be removed and there would be restoration in the gravel
26 work pad areas. He stated that the access for structure #6, would be off Litchfield Road. He reviewed
27 how they would access structure #4 with the Commission, noting the temporary impact. He discussed
28 Best Management Practice (BMPs), noting it would include the installation of silt fencing, and wetland
29 restoration when the timber mating is removed, as well as following the state's BMPs manual for
30 working in wetlands. He remarked that they will be going before the Planning Board in October for the
31 CUP and that a statutory permit by notification will be filed. He asked if the Commission had any
32 questions for him. D Heafey asked how long the project would last. K van Naerssen replied that they are
33 hoping to start construction this fall and then the OBGW elements would be installed in March of 2023.
34 D Heafey asked if there would be traffic disruption to the local roadways. K van Naerssen replied that
35 they do not anticipate any traffic concerns at this point. M Badois asked if the equipment would be
36 brought in and out every day. K van Naerssen replied that it would not. G Harrington made a motion to



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37 recommend the Eversource T-155 Transmission Line CUP to the Planning Board. B Maxwell seconded
38 the motion. The motion passed, 6-0-0

39 ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAAAA~~

40 ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAAAA~~ A Kizak noted that Town Planner Walsh looked it over and liked how the
41 Commission made it clear that the Planning Board has the final say. G Harrington made a motion to
42 adopt the Buffer Mitigation Policy dated 4-15-2019. D Heafey seconded the motion. The motion passed,
43 6-0-0.

44 ~~AA~~ M Badois told the Commission that she believes everyone in town might have received a letter
45 from SELT for fundraising regarding a conservation easement at the Peterson Sugar House. She
46 mentioned that the Peterson Sugar House is trying to fundraise \$45,000 to conserve the land.

47 ~~AAAAA~~ M Badois stated that a group of mountain bikers are going to meet her and look at a trail in the
48 Musquash on October 8, 2022. B Maxwell commented that the hill side is very steep and, in his opinion,
49 even if they put switch backs, it will be very hard to make it stay. M Badois mentioned that the mountain
50 bikers seem to be very trail savvy and that they have a plan or proposal to create the trail. D Lievens
51 asked if the trail was down to dirt and how steep it is. B Maxwell replied that if it is not real wet, you can
52 get up the trail without putting your hands on the ground, but not always. He remarked that it might
53 have been an official trail once. M Badois interjected that it might not have been official, but it was
54 used. D Lievens asked what the goal of the Commission would be with this. M Badois replied that the
55 mountain bikers might not want the trail, as it is dangerous. She went on stating that she did not know
56 what their plan was and that is why they are meeting them out there to evaluate it.

57 ~~AAAAA~~ G Harrington reminded M Badois that the Commission had asked to go out and see what
58 Eversource was proposing for mitigation for their Exit 4A line project. He said that he recently was
59 travelling along I-93 and noted that there is a lot of work being done there already and he did not want
60 the Commission to miss anything. M Badois said she would go back and read the minutes to find the
61 contact person.

62 ~~AA~~ ~~AAAAA~~

63 ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AA~~ ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAAA~~ ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAA~~ ~~AAAAA~~ ~~AAA~~ ~~AA~~ A Kizak told the Commission that there are two public
64 hearings on the Planning Board October 5, 2022, agenda. She said that one of the public hearings is a
65 rezoning request for a section of the Rail Trail and showed the Commission where on the screen. M
66 Badois pointed out that this is where Groundhog is. A Kizak pointed out that the Eversource CUP they
67 heard this evening will be the second public hearing on the agenda. D Lievens asked what the goal of the
68 rezoning is. A Kizak replied that the rezoning request is to rezone that section of the Rail Trail from the
69 AR-1 zone to the C-II zone. D Lievens asked how this would affect the Rail Trail. A Kizak replied that it
70 would change some of the buffer setbacks along the Rail Trail, noting there are bigger buffer setbacks in
71 the AR-1 zone than the C-II zone. M Badois offered her opinion, that this is to help alleviate Groundhog's



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72 encroachment issues. D Lievens agreed. M Badois asked if the rezoning application would come before
73 the Commission. A Kizak replied that rezoning requests do not come before the Commission.

74 ~~AAAA~~ B Maxwell asked how long it takes for a map order to come in. M Badois replied it usually takes a
75 week, maybe two if he is busy. B Maxwell mentioned that he believes the Commission should vote to
76 authorize the funds sometime in the next six weeks or so for more maps. He noted that he has 340 left
77 and is going through about 50 a week. M Badois pointed out that they should know if they will need to
78 change the maps in a week and a half. D Lievens added that the Commission has funds available for
79 maps.

80 ~~AAAAAA~~ M Badois informed the Commission that the appraisal for Gilcreast will be in soon and it will
81 go to Mike Malaguti, Town Manager.

82 ~~AAAA AAAAAA~~

83 ~~AAAAAA~~ The Commissioners went over the public minutes of September 13, 2022. D Lievens made a
84 motion to approve the minutes as amended. B Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

85 ~~AAAAAAA A AAAAA AAAA AA~~ G Harrington told the Commission that they received a wetland minimum
86 impact expedited application up near Exit 5. He mentioned that he is not familiar with the wetland in
87 question. He pointed out that the Commission's policy in the past for this type of application was that
88 two members of the Commission had to be familiar with the site to sign off on the application. He
89 mentioned he was not sure if there were any Commission members that are familiar with the site or if
90 they would need to get volunteers. He asked A Kizak to bring up the site and wetland on the screen. A
91 Kizak reviewed the wetland in question on the screen to the Commission. M Badois and D Lievens
92 offered that they could go either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. G Harrington reminded M Badois
93 that she would need the actual paper copies to sign off on. D Lievens asked for the purpose of the
94 project. A Kizak replied that she has not officially reviewed the site plan in question, so she does not
95 know. She mentioned that this project will also have a CUP and they are on the agenda for the
96 Commission's October 11, 2022, meeting.

97 ~~AAAAAA AAA~~ G Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. D Lievens seconded
98 the motion. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

99 Respectfully Submitted,
100 Beth Morrison
101 Recording Secretary