

Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 5PM
Meeting Location: 534 Magic Circle, Londonderry

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Gary Hedman, Helen Hamman, Irwin Kuperberg, Jane MacKugler, Steve Swinburne, Mark Wright, Sunny Wright

- 1) Additions or deletions to the agenda- The following items were added to the agenda: New Budget, Hunter Act 250 Application
- 2) Approval of October 2022 minutes- Helen made a motion to approve the October 2022 minutes and it was seconded by Steve. The motion carried by unanimous vote
- 3) Old Business
 - a. Dam – The Selectboard attempted to form a committee to work on the dam issue but there were no volunteers. Research into a USDA grant for dam rehabilitation indicated that it was not a viable option.
 - b. Prouty Land - We will create 2 separate signs for the pollinator garden. A large one on the roadside with a simple message (such as Londonderry Pollinator Garden | Welcome) and a smaller one to provide details about the garden itself.
 - c. One Londonderry Trail Project- We reviewed all the issues around One Londonderry's request that biking/hiking trails be developed in the Shamburg Town Forest. A motion was made by Jane and seconded by Helen to inform One Londonderry that we will work with them on a hiking trail but that we are opposed to bike access. A letter detailing the our intent is attached to these minutes. The motion was approved by a vote with Gary, Helen, Jane, Steve, Sunny and Mark in favor and Irwin abstaining.
 - d. Hunter Excavating- There is an upcoming Act 250 hearing on Hunter Excavating's request to expand operations at the Rowes Road quarry, including blasting. There were concerns expressed and Steve will request party status for the LCC so that we can provide input.
 - e. Forest Management Plans for Town Properties- Irwin will contact Dana to get an update on his plan to do winter timber assessment.
 - f. Wastewater project- A motion was made by Sunny and seconded by Helen to recommend to the Selectboard that the portion of the Custer Sharp property needed for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant be designated as a Town Park. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.
 - g. The Nature Conservancy / Glebe Mountain- Irwin has been in contact with TNC to assist them in their planning of a community forum to discuss the transfer of the Glebe property to the USDA. At this time they have decided to offer it as a virtual event and asked us for any scheduling concerns from our end. Irwin will inform them that any time is good other than the dates of our next 2 meetings, February 23 and March 16.

h. Library section- Sunny and Steve will work with Lauren at the library to create an LCC shelf in the library containing books related to our current projects.

i. Events

i. Moonlight walk on the West River Trail- Sunday, March 5.

ii. A Tour of Vermont's Natural Communities- Irwin is working with Bob Zaino of VT Fish & Wildlife about this program

iii. Pending

1. Wetlands-To be rescheduled in the Spring

2. Old Growth

3. Nature of Vermont

4. Oaks

5. Where Have All the Insects Gone?

4) New Business

a. Budget-The annual budget for the coming fiscal year has been submitted to Tina with no changes from the previous budget

b. New EAB sighting- We have been informed by the Windham Regional Commission that there have been new EAB sightings in Guilford and Townshend.

c. Vermont Invasive Management Day- We have received a request from a private citizen that the LCC support the establishment of a Vermont Invasive Management Day.

5) Wildlife Sightings – Opossum, turkey, fox, barred owl, pine grosbeaks, ermine, gairdner wren, purple finch, pileated woodpecker, deer

Next meeting on February 23.

Londonderry Conservation Commission
100 Old School Street
South Londonderry, VT

Irwin Kuperberg, Chair
Helen Hamman
Gary Hedman
Jane MacKugler
Stephen Swinburne
Mark Wright
Sunny Wright

DRAFT

DATE: February 2, 2023

TO: One Londonderry Recreation Group, Londonderry Select Board

FROM: Irwin Kuperberg, Chair

RE: Proposed Trails at Shamburg Town Forest

The Londonderry Conservation Commission, as stewards of the Shamburg Town Forest, recognizes that we have the dual role of protecting the land and also making it accessible to the public to learn from, enjoy and use. Shamburg has an amazing variety of habitats and land formations which make it particularly appropriate for walking and skiing trails. However much of the local ecosystem is fragile and requires careful planning. We have therefore agreed on the following:

1. Any trail construction would have to involve the least amount of disruption to the land and be appropriately located in relation to the heron rookery.
2. There should be a requirement that dogs be leashed when on the property.
3. While we acknowledge the enthusiasm for biking access that has been expressed to us we are not in favor of developing access for bikers at this time. The proposed loop network would be too disruptive to the land and in towns that have allowed biker access it was not uncommon for bikers to continue carving out new trails. We are also basing our position on the fact that there is strong opposition from neighboring landowners to biker access. Other concerns include potential biker/hiker conflicts, impacts of parking, realistic concerns about trash removal.
4. Notwithstanding, we are willing to revisit biker access at a later date in the context of a wider through trail network.
5. We propose the Custer Sharp property as an alternative site for the development of a bike trail network. This would be especially interesting if the town proceeds with plans to install an underground wastewater facility in Custer Sharp. Construction would create new roads on the land and the facility itself would lie under a mowed field which would become a town park (exactly like the one under Dana Thompson Park in Manchester).

We are fully in support of the One Londonderry Recreation Group's vision of creating recreational trails in town. It aligns with our own plans for the use of town properties and we will be happy to collaborate on future projects.