

Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 5PM
Meeting Location: 320 Beattie Road, South Londonderry

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

The following item was added to the agenda: HWA survey

- 1) Approval of February 2 2023 minutes- Helen moved and Steve seconded that the February 2 minutes be approved with a correction to the spelling of Carolina wren in the Wildlife Sightings. The motion passed with unanimous vote.
- 2) Old Business
 - a. Dam -There have been no substantive recent developments that we are aware of.
 - b. Prouty Land -We are still seeking bids on the proposed sign. Gary will check with VTrans as to restrictions on placement. Once we're ready we will apply to the town for a sign permit.
 - c. One Londonderry Trail Project- Helen moved that the Draft Memorandum we sent to the One Londonderry Trails Committee be approved. The motion was seconded by Jane and passed by unanimous vote.
 - d. Hunter Excavating Act 250 Permit- Hunter is asking for a permit to expand his operation at the Rowes Road quarries. Final approval will be from the Natural Resources Board of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The LCC has requested from the state that we be granted party status. We discussed possible environmental concerns stemming from this expansion including impacts on local wildlife and West River water quality. Because Steve has been opposing the project as a private homeowner he has asked to be recused from LCC activities surrounding this issue.
 - e. Forest Management Plans for Town Properties -Dana Hazen, our forester, communicated that he has not started the inventory yet, but plans to sometime in the next month. He expects it will be a few field days to collect the data, and then work on the report. We have asked if we can accompany him during any part of the inventory process.
 - f. Wastewater project -The Wastewater Committee and the Windham Regional Commission met with the Parks Board about collocating a site at Pingree Park. The Parks Board expressed that they are opposed. There are also 4 privately owned parcels in town that are being looked at in the North Village, in addition to Custer Sharp. In the South Village there was limited results from test pits at the library parcel, which is the currently the only one being looked at in the South Village.
 - g. The Nature Conservancy / Glebe Mountain- The Nature Conservancy signed an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to transfer the ownership of 3,500-acre Glebe Mountain to the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (USFWS). The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service will host a webinar on March 1st at 6:30pm to provide a brief overview and answer

any questions related to the change in ownership. Information has been posted on the LCCs Facebook page and shared to the community forum.

- h. Library section -Sunny spoke with Lauren and she approved our having an LCC bookshelf. We will be stocking the shelf with books of interest. Lauren will publicize the display in the library newsletter.
- i. Events
 - i. Moonlight snowshoe walk on the West River Trail- Sunday, March 5 at 6pm, weather permitting. Meeting place will be the trailhead on the Londonderry side. We will publicize on social media and word of mouth.
 - ii. A Tour of Vermont's Natural Communities- Irwin is working with Bob Zaino of VT Fish & Wildlife about this program and he is opting for something later in the year.
 - iii. Pending
 - 1. Wetlands-To be rescheduled in the Spring
 - 2. Old Growth-We are looking for a speaker
 - 3. Nature of Vermont-pending
 - 4. Oaks-pending
 - 5. Where Have All the Insects Gone?- We will invite Bryan Pfeiffer to give this talk this summer.

3) New Business

- a. HWA survey- We received survey forms and will individually perform surveys.

4) Wildlife Sightings - Gull, moose, bald eagle, bobcat

Next meeting will be Thursday March 23 at 5pm