



Derry Conservation Commission
14 Manning St
Derry, NH 03038

On July 6, 2015 at 7:00 pm, the Derry Conservation Commission met in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Municipal Center.

The followings members were present: Eileen Chabot, Paul Dionne, Margaret Ives, Chair, and Alan Camuso. Town Council Liaison, Tom Cardon was present.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold a public hearing on the acquisition of a Conservation Easement on a property on Island Pond Rd.

PUBLIC HEARING JULY 6
7 pm

The Derry Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, July 6, 2015 at 7 PM in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room at the Derry Municipal Center at 14 Manning Street. The Commission will consider spending up to \$386,000 from the Land Use fund to conserve and acquire a conservation easement on approximately 110 acres of land Tax Map 4 Lot 67 and Tax Map 6 Lot 37 at 189 and 194 Island Pond Road and along Gulf Road and Ballard Pond. The land is owned by Dorothy Gunther and Victor Nelson.

David Viale from the South East Land Trust gave an overview of the project details. The property is approximately 110 acres. It consists of 30 acres of fields, 80 acres of forested upland woodlands. The property has frontage both sides of Island Pond Rd, Gulf Rd. and Ballard Pond. A boundary survey will be done to get the exact acreage.

The South East Land Trust (SELT) knew that obtaining this easement was of a high priority for the Derry Conservation Commission and that this property fit well into the goals of Derry's Open Space Plan, a

plan which protects and conserves agriculture, lakes, surface water and wildlife habitat. The property also stands out in statewide and regional plans. The area is also identified in State and Regional Conservation Plans. The Land Conservation Plan for the Merrimack River Water Shed identifies this area as a high conservation priority property. The Dept. of Environmental Services identifies the area as part of a drinking water protection area.

The total cost of the easement is approximately \$801,000.00. A Department of Environmental Services grant will cover 50% of the eligible project costs. A State Conservation Committee Moose Plate Grant will contribute \$15,000.00. The land owners have contributed some of their own money to help cover the cost of appraisals. SELT is asking DCC to consider expending funds of up to \$386,000.00.

Town Council Liaison, Tom Cardon, questioned public access. The property at current is a horse boarding farm in the field area. The owners would like to restrict motorized traffic and limit the activities to foot traffic and horseback riding. Public access would probably be off Gulf Rd. The easement would allow agricultural uses. A final contract would have to be brought up by the owner and the commission.

Paul Dionne made a motion to open the public hearing. Eileen Chabot seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Richard Tripp, 44 Windham Rd. remarked on how a year ago the funds from the Land Use Change Tax were almost taken away from DCC by the Town Council. He thinks this is a wonderful piece of property and he is in favor of the easement and glad that the funds were available. He congratulated DCC.

Mary Eisner, 21R Derryfield Rd. is in favor of the acquisition of this property. She feels it is in the best interest for the Town of Derry to help prevent additional development and protect the environment. Mary presented a fact to the commission and the viewing public. *If a car is idling for an hour, it emits 10 pounds of CO2 into the air, so we do need trees.*

Paul Dionne made a motion to close the public hearing. Eileen Chabot seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried

The Town Council was to schedule a public hearing on July 7, 2015. If approved, a boundary survey and an environmental hazard assessment will be done. The Conservation Easement deed will be drafted and filed with the registry of deeds along with the survey. SELT will be the holder of the easement. SELT has the responsibility for monitoring the terms of the easement. A final contract will be done by the owners and the commission. The Town of Derry will have executory interest. The state of NH will also have a right of enforcement, since they are contributing funds. The process will take approximately until the end of 2015 to complete. DCC will take a vote on funding the easement at their next meeting, July 13, 2015.

Pail Dionne made a motion to adjourn. Eileen Chabot seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Recording Clerk/Ruth Robinson