

**Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission**

MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2024

1. Call meeting to order
 - a. Present: Gary Hedman, Irwin Kuperberg, Jane MacKugler, Steve Swinburne, Sunny Wright
2. Gary suggested the following new agenda items: Purchase and operation of game cameras

Helen suggested adding reports on the Resiliency Committee
3. Old Business
 - a. Natural Resources Inventory- Gary submitted a Memo of Understanding to UVM outlining the various benchmarks in the program. The first payment will be due August 1. A copy is attached to these minutes. Steve called attention to recognized Gary's leadership in getting this program started.
 - b. Pollinator Garden- still tabled until warmer weather. Steve suggests a pollinator talk when the garden is at its peak. Helen suggested Peter VanLoon, Forest Program Director from the VT Land Trust and Corey Ross, Forester with the WRCD who had presented at the Garden Club. Steve suggested Grace Glynn, the State Botanist.
 - c. Wastewater Project – Gary is now the chair and a fifth member has been added. A draft user fee and draft ordinance will be submitted to the Selectboard tomorrow.
 - d. Events
 - i. Steve will contact Grace Glynn, Vermont State Botanist, about doing a talk for us. He has also been in contact with the North Branch Nature Center about other programs.
 - ii. Robert Badger's is rescheduled to May 7 at the BBA Mountain Campus, and will include a walk and rock identification on the WR Trail. Time of day to be determined.
 - iii. Foraging- Steve will check with Grace Glynn as to whether she can do the foraging talk. Wes Genovart and Kevin Beattie are still being considered for the cooking demonstration. Sunny will talk to Wes.
 - iv. Helen suggested a Sun Day program, possibly at Pingree, together with other groups such as Lions, Garden Club, other CCs, the Collaborative. September 25 is the Autumnal Equinox.
4. Conservation News
 - a. Irwin shared several general news items of interest
5. New Business
 - a. TNC return of funds- The Nature Conservancy contacted the Town to inform them that subsequent to their sale of the Glebe property they were returning the \$5,000 that we donated for the original purpose.
 - b. Vermont Rivers Program- The Vermont Rivers Program is run by the DEC of ANR and is comprised of three sections:

[Streamflow Protection, River Management, River Corridor and Floodplain Protection](#)

. At the last SB meeting they presented on 3 activities in our Town. Irwin has requested that the LCC be involved with all their activities in Londonderry and has a call scheduled for next week with Alyssa Sabato of the WRC to discuss the LCCs engagement with the program.

- c. LCC page on Town website- Shane informed Irwin of the proposed timeline for the rebuild of the Town website as follows: RFP circulated in late March, vendor selection by SB in April, project completion in late summer
 - d. Pingree- Irwin is investigating the benefits of having all the town properties designated as Town Forests
 - e. Game Cameras- Gary proposed purchasing game cameras to complement our natural resources inventory work, among other things, in addition to being able to lend them out to residents who want to contribute information
 - f. Resiliency Committee- Helen suggested that the LCC be informed of any plans that involved the river. They are discussing moving the South Londonderry Fire Department up to the Town Maintenance Garage and moving the garage to the Prouty Land.
6. Wildlife sightings – Water springtail, barred owl, Canada goose, turkeys, robin, goldfinch, redwing blackbird

Next meeting Thursday, April 10

Attachment: Memo of Understanding with the University of Vermont

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between Londonderry Conservation Commission and The University of Vermont's **Field Naturalist Program**

March 12, 2025

This memorandum of understanding formalizes the working partnership between the Londonderry Conservation Commission (LCC) and The University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program, housed in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to coordinate the implementation of a sponsored master's research project for Greta Aiken during the Summer/Fall 2025.

A draft report will be submitted to LCC no later than December 15, 2025.

A final report submitted to LCC no later than April 1, 2026.

Greta Aiken will work primarily with Gary Hedman as the point of contact for the LCC, gary.hedman@gmail.com, 508-737-5960.

LCC will provide material support and guidance throughout the duration of the project. Where helpful, we will accompany Greta in the field and can help coordinate access to private property if/when necessary. We can also provide lodging at Conservation Commission members homes during field visits to Londonderry. We will also serve as liaison to other Londonderry Committee's and/or Departments, Select Board members, etc., to help facilitate the project. As an active Committee, LCC hosts monthly committee meetings and would welcome Greta's attendance (online) to provide project updates and coordinate scheduling.

Press releases and other publications related to the project must achieve each institution's review.

For the satisfactory completion of this work, LCC agrees to pay \$3,250 by August 31, 2025 and \$3,250 by April 15, 2026. Invoices will be sent 45 days prior to due dates and will be mailed to the Contact below.

Sponsor Contact:

Town of Londonderry

Attn: Tina Labeau, Treasurer

100 Old School Street, Londonderry, VT 05155

treasurer@londonderryvt.org

802-824-3356 ext. 3

For [sponsor]:

For UVM Field Naturalist Program:

Irwin Kuperberg, LCC Chair

Date: _____

Walter Poleman, Director

Date: _____