

Raymond Conservation Commission Site Walk – DRAFT Minutes

March 20, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at Shatagee Road power line crossing

Minutes: Site walk for Town-owned properties off Shatagee Road and Lane Road

Map/Lot	Access Off	Acres
007/000/013***	Shatagee Road	25
007/000/009**	Shatagee Road	25
013/000/002	Lane Road	20
013/000/004*	Lane Road	64
019/000/002*	Lane Road	4.84
007/000/007	Shatagee Road	0.85

* Originally planned for this site walk, but not included due to time constraints.

** Walked March 7, 2021.

*** Walked March 7 and March 20, 2021.

Chair Jan Kent called the meeting to order at 10:12 A.M. in the parking lot under the power lines along Shatagee Road.

Conservation Commission members present were: Jan Kent, Kathy McDonald, Kris Holleran, and Mike Unger.

Members of the public were: Pam Hall and Leah Unger.

Chair Kent explained the purpose of this site walk was to conduct a more detailed examination of some properties visited on March 7 and to walk additional Town-owned properties in the area. There are 5 parcels between Lane Road and Shatagee Road, bisected by an electrical transmission line property owned by Eversource, that make up 136 acres: 007/000/013, 007/000/009, 013/000/002, 013/000/004, 019/000/002. Abutting Shatagee road to the south is a conserved property of 103 acres owned by the Town of Chester. The CC is interested in conserving these 5 properties together, since Fordway Brook runs through 3 of the properties, which are upstream of the Town of Chester's conserved property. In the Coastal Watershed Plan, the Fordway Brook Headwaters area is considered a High-Quality Tier 4 Watershed and a High Forest Value Ecosystem. Properties are also included in the NH Wildlife Action Plan as best in state, region and supporting habitat. Due to the state importance of Fordway Brook, these properties may be eligible for the NHDES Watershed Assistance Grant for protection. There is also no town public land in this section of town for use by the residents.

Lot 007/000/007 was walked first. A recorded survey indicated abutting Lot 007/000/008 is owned by a Chester resident with contiguous property over the town line in Chester, and a stone wall is the property line between Lots 007 and 008. A catch basin apparently in the right-of-way in front of the property was covered in leaves and in need of cleaning. The marker that was observed on a tree near the road during the March 7 site walk was confirmed to be on Town-owned Lot 007. It reads, "This property is protected

by a Conservation Easement held by Rockingham County Conservation District, Brentwood, NH (603) 679-2790, www.rockinghamccd.org". Kathy offered to contact Rockingham County Conservation District to inquire. The lot is a narrow (71 +/- feet wide) strip between the Eversource property and Lot 008. It is wooded and sloping. Several large boulders were observed.

The group then walked east on Shatagee Road to the southern part of Lot 013. This portion of the property was not visited on the March 7 site walk. It has an upland area that could possibly be used for parking. Fordway Brook flows from north to south through the property. It forms a small pool then flows between old stone walls presumed to be an old mill before crossing through a culvert under Shatagee Road. Blue and yellow flagging was observed along the edges of the brook. Kris said she thinks the Town is planning to replace the culvert, and the flagging is likely for that project. Other stone structures that appeared to be remains of old foundations were observed. A dry hydrant pipe is located near the road. A pipe assumed to be the inlet to the dry hydrant was observed above the water line of the small pool. A concrete boundary monument was observed along Shatagee Road as well as a rebar survey marker farther down Shatagee Road near a mailbox. It was unclear whether either of these marks the corner between Lots 013 and 014. A sheet metal storage container, cars, and other items were located near the stone walls on the northeast side of Fordway Brook. It was unclear whether they were on Town-owned Lot 013.

Attendees then drove to Lane Road where the electrical transmission lines cross it. The group walked south under the power lines and entered Town-owned Lot 013/000/002 at its northwest corner. The property was walked generally from north to south. The following features of interest were observed: many large trees including white birch; natural drainage and running water flowing from east to west toward the power line property and onward to Fordway Brook; several large areas of interconnected forested wetlands; stone wall running north to south assumed to be the eastern boundary of the property with a wire fence heading east from a property pin; turkey siting; evidence of animal life – tracks, seed shells, broken branches, bird calls – including deer, squirrel, various birds, and others not identified (tracks were difficult to identify due to recent snow melt). The group exited the property near its southern boundary where it borders the Norton Pond Estates open space land and walked back up the power line property to the cars.

Mike was excused at 12:00 P.M.

Kris, Kathy and Jan walked to the Lane Road access to Map 013/000/002. By using the tax map with an aerial photo and landmarks, the group located a rock wall that might be one boundary of the 39+/- foot access. The land was sloped and wooded. There was a culvert that directed water from the northerly side of Lane Road down the slope into the access area. There were no areas for parking, and the access was between two curves, so the line of sight did not appear to be good for public access.

Jan made a motion to adjourn, and Kris seconded, the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Unger