

Town of Raymond
Conservation Commission DRAFT Minutes of
February 10, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jan Kent, Chair
Kathy McDonald (Vice Chair)
Deb McNelly (Secretary)
Kris Holleran

Meeting Called to Order by:

Chair Jan Kent at 6:30 PM

Commission Members Excused:

Commission Members Absent:

Kathy Lee, Alternate

Recording Secretary:

Alvina Snegach

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Melissa Potter – interested in becoming a member of the Commission (4th meeting attended).

Michael Unger – prospective ConsCom member recommended by the Commission to be appointed.

Patricia Bridgeo – interested in becoming a member of the Commission (1st meeting attended).

A Checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency

Jan Kent read the checklist into the record. Next, the members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

None

Roll Call Attendance

Jan Kent
Deb McNelly
Kris Holleran
Kathy McDonald

Agenda Items

Wetland Zoning - educational material update and Review FAQs

Chair Kent displayed the article by Ms. McNelly on the importance of wetlands to the quality of drinking water. Ms. Kent noted that the article is now posted on the ConsCom Facebook page and the website. It did not make it to the Town newsletter for this month.

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44 Next Chair Kent displayed the Frequently Asked Questions document prepared by Mr.
45 Unger. Members reviewed and suggested to clarify the language on the buildable area
46 calculations and that wetlands and wetland buffers are excluded from buildable area.
47 Once Mr. Unger updates the document, Ms. Kent will get it posted on the website.

48 **2021 Priorities**

49 Ms. Kent provided a brief overview of the routine ConsCom activities/priorities to the
50 members of the public for educational purposes. Those are:

- 51 - NHDES dredge and fill (wetlands) and shoreland permit applications that
52 ConsCom can comment on;
- 53 - Subdivisions and special permits for wetlands/buffer impacts that are
54 reviewed by the Planning Board and the ConsCom can also provide
55 recommendations, especially if there are wetlands present;
- 56 - Four Town owned properties that the ConsCom is managing; and
- 57 - ConsCom finances.

58 Then the members provided the following items for the Commission to work on during
59 the year:

- 60 - Working with the Planning Board to revise the Open Space Subdivision
61 regulations to make sure that at least half of the open space parcel is open to
62 the public, there are no loopholes that could be exploited, enforcement is
63 happening, use of natural landscaping is promoted, etc.;
- 64 - Improvements to the parking area at Cassier;
- 65 - Creating a list of projects for the ARM Fund and combining them with the “no
66 net loss ordinance” ones (seeking help from the Rockingham County Planning
67 Commission);
- 68 - Research more properties of high conservation value and explore either
69 acquisition or other ways to conserve the land;
- 70 - Continue work on signage for the Town owned properties;
- 71 - Provide survey and plan reading training to ConsCom members (Ms. Kent will
72 contact Sylvia von Aulock who provided such training to the Town previously;
73 and in the meantime, Mr. Unger agreed to go over some basics once the
74 Commission has an application to review;
- 75 - Putting up trail cameras along some trails on the Town owned conservation
76 land;
- 77 - Researching the NHDES Source Water Protection Grant. Mr. Unger agreed to
78 do a presentation at a future meeting;
- 79 - Submit more educational articles to the Town newsletter;
- 80 - Add trail specific information to the Town owned properties webpage with
81 trail maps;
- 82 - Invite a local botanist to walk the Town properties to identify medicinal plants
83 and do a write up for the public;

84 Chair Kent said that she will make a list of priorities from all the suggestions.

85 **Finance**

86 Chair Kent displayed the following documents for the members to review:

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- 87 - ConsCom 2020 General Fund detail - \$593.93 total expenses in 2020;
88 - ConsCom third quarter of 2020 balance transfers – total of \$5,491.45
89 transferred from the Conservation Fund to the General Fund;
90 - Conservation Fund balance sheet for December 2020 – \$3,750.00 was
91 received in land use change tax and balance as of the end of December was
92 \$271,366.82.

93 **2021 Budget**

94 Chair Kent displayed the proposed budget for 2021 and noted that the amount is the
95 same as 2020 and the allocations have remained, despite the changes that the
96 Commission proposed before.

97 **Approval of Minutes**

98 *December 9, 2020 minutes* draft was reviewed, and changes were made. **Kris**
99 **Holleran made a motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020 as**
100 **amended; Deb McNelly duly seconded. Motion carried by a roll call vote of**
101 **4:0 as follows: Kris Holleran – yes; Deb McNelly – yes; Jan Kent – yes; June,**
102 **and Kathy McDonald - yes.**

103 *January 20, 2021 minutes* draft was reviewed, and changes were made. **Kris Holleran**
104 **made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021 as amended;**
105 **Kathy McDonald duly seconded. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 4:0 as**
106 **follows: Kris Holleran – yes; Deb McNelly – yes; Jan Kent – yes; June, and**
107 **Kathy McDonald - yes.**

108 **Correspondence**

109 Ms. Kent displayed and went over the following items:

- 110 - ConsCom letter to the ZBA regarding 35 Prescott Road;
111 - ConsCom letter to the Planning Board regarding Bald Hill Road Conservation
112 subdivision;
113 - Pollinator Pathways Newsletter from January 2021;
114 - NHDES Forestry Notification - Map 39, Lot 2 & Map 33, 16,19,21,117.
115 Members also looked at where the properties were located on the tax maps;

116 **Other items**

117 Chair Kent said that Raymond no longer has a representative on the Lamprey River
118 Advisory Committee and asked if anyone was interested in becoming one.

119 She also said that Dennis Garnham, who is affiliated with Bear-Paw, is looking to put up
120 new medallions along some conservation properties. He organized a collection of
121 aluminum cans at his house at 95 Main Street (there is a drop off container there).

122 **Property Updates**

123 **Bear-Paw monitoring reports – review:**

- 124
125 - SELT – Bond/Pawtuckaway River Reservation – no issues;
126 - Cassier Forest – issues with lack of blazing/medallions, rusting barrel and old
127 trail bridge need to be removed, and ATV access needs to be blocked. Ms.
128 Kent noted that the Commission has already worked out a new map with less
129 trails and that other issues need to be addressed.

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- 130 - Dearborn Forest – issues with stone walls bordering private property being
131 dismantled to allow vehicle access; west trail sign at the Rail trail intersection
132 is missing; a fire pit with trash; abandoned computer screen; and people
133 depositing organic waste and debris onto the Dearborn side of the stone walls.
134 - Flint Hill – issues with ATV use in the wetlands that needs to be addressed.
135 - Robinson Hill – no major issues, but that the boundaries need to be better
136 defined. Ms. Kent will find out who is responsible for putting up the boundary
137 medallions.

138 Chair Kent will create a list of items for all the properties.

139 **Flint Hill Conservation Issues**

140 Chair Kent displayed the email from Brian Griset about his encounter with rock
141 collectors on Flint Hill and the following issues: a missing Conservation land sign which
142 makes parking confusing and people park on a private road instead of in the designated
143 parking area; improper parking sign along the moved barrier; rock mining on the
144 conservation land; deficient Flint Hill website information; and social media/Google
145 misinformation. Ms. Kent and Ms. McDonald went out to the property. Ms. Kent
146 displayed a short timeline of her visits to the property and the events that took place.
147 She encountered rock collectors several times, filed a police report, installed some
148 generic signs prohibiting parking, collecting rocks, or using ATV's, submitted a request
149 to Google to remove references to any rock collecting on Flint Hill, and ordered some
150 custom-made CONSERVATION LAND and NO PARKING signs for the property. She also
151 responded to Mr. Griset describing all the above. Ms. Kent also displayed the deed to
152 the Town for the Norris Farm open space parcel and the subdivision plan showing that
153 land. She confirmed that the Town owns the land now.

154 **Cassier Parking Area Improvements**

155 Ms. Kent went out to Cassier Forest with Mr. Brewer and looked at the parking area.
156 She showed pictures and a plan of proposed improvements, where the entrance area
157 would be widened (by flattening it out and cutting trees) to align with the road right of
158 way. Rocks will be added around the kiosk and the widened area. Members discussed
159 the plan and agreed that it was a good idea. Ms. Kent will contact the company that
160 worked on Robinson Hill parking to see if they could give a quote for Cassier.

161 **Dearborn kiosk issue**

162 Ms. Kent showed pictures of the kiosk that had been damaged by a fallen tree (the tree
163 has been removed since then). Members discussed what could be done and whether
164 they would need to reach out to the community for help. She also added that Mike
165 Lamb put up NO ATV signs at Dearborn which were picked up by Mr. Unger. Members
166 thanked both for their help.

167 Ms. Kent provided a brief overview on where to find information on the Town owned
168 properties on the website and answered some questions about the beaches at the
169 Governors Lake. She also went over the recent improvements to the trail system at
170 Cassier. Mr. Unger thanked the Commission for doing a great job on the trails with the
171 signage and blazing.

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172 Ms. Porter said that she would like to fill out the volunteer application to join the
173 Commission. Ms. Kent noted that Mr. Unger has been recommended for appointment
174 and is scheduled to be appointed at the February 22nd Board of Selectmen meeting.
175 The next ConsCom meeting will take place on Thursday, February 25th.

176

177 **Adjournment**

178 **Members took a poll on adjournment - Deb McNelly – yes; Kris Holleran –**
179 **yes; Jan Kent – yes; Kathy McDonald – yes.**

180

181 The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

182

183 Respectfully Submitted,

184

185 Alvina Snegach

186 Recording Secretary