

Town of Raymond
Conservation Commission DRAFT Minutes of
May 12, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jan Kent, Chair
Michael Unger
Melissa Potter
Deb McNelly (Secretary) (joined at 6:35 PM)

Meeting Called to Order by:

Chair Jan Kent at 6:30 PM

Commission Members Excused:

Kris Holleran
Kathy McDonald (Vice Chair)

Commission Members Absent:

RCTV representative:

Kathy Masso

Recording Secretary:

Alvina Snegach

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Patricia Bridgeo

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.

Roll Call Attendance

Jan Kent
Michael Unger
Melissa Potter

Public Input:

There was none.

Agenda Items

Bald Hill Subdivision - review resubmitted plans Chair Kent said that ConsCom had already submitted comments on this to the Planning Board, but there was a change in the plan, and it may require another look. She displayed the old plan with two proposed cul-de-sacs and then showed the new plan, where there was only one cul-de-sac, and all the lots were congregated on one side of the property with shared driveways. The open space would be kept on the other side on the new plan. Members discussed the new proposal and plan features and noted the following concerns:

- wells being drilled too close to the wetlands and in the wetland buffers;
- lots 37-5, 37-6, and 37-9 having wetlands in the middle, thus making the buildable area not contiguous, which could create future wetland/buffer impacts, since the access to some lot usable area may require wetland crossing by the homeowner post development;

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- 44 - septic and house footprints overlapping on several lots;
- 45 - lack of retention ponds on the new plan, whereas the previous one showed
- 46 one pond at the end of each cul-de-sac;
- 47 - lots being closer to wetlands on the new plan;
- 48 - lots 37-33 and 37-34 cutting off the wildlife corridor that the open space
- 49 would have created;

50 Members agreed that Ms. Kent will summarize the comments and send the members a
51 draft to review. Poll was taken and everyone present voted in favor.

52 Ms. Kent also noted that the previous ConsCom comments were brought up to the
53 Planning Board by Ms. McDonald, who attended the meeting. She also noted that there
54 will be a Technical Review meeting for the new proposal, the results of which would
55 need to be made known to the ConsCom.

56

57 **Trailer removal bids from RFP- Open**

58 Chair Kent said that the proposals were due April 30th, with the intent to be publicly
59 opened during the ConsCom meeting on May 12th. She said only one proposal had been
60 received and showed everyone the sealed envelope. Ms. Kent said that it was from
61 Earth and Stone Contracting, LLC, who reached out and met with Mr. Unger to see the
62 property before submitting the proposal. Once the envelope was opened, Ms. Kent
63 went over the details such as erosion control, removal and disposal, and site restoration
64 for the total amount of \$2,500. She said that the proposal was missing the statement of
65 qualifications and experience along with three references, which would need to be
66 provided by the bidder, should the proposal be accepted. Members discussed the fact
67 that there was only one proposal and whether that was not violating any Town policies.
68 Ms. Kent will check with the Town on that. In the meantime, members took a poll, and
69 everyone present agreed that it would be fine to proceed, as long as the Town policies
70 were followed. Mr. Unger can reach out to the contractor for the missing information.

71

72 **June Newsletter - review article**

73 Chair Kent displayed the article by Ms. McNelly about the invasive plants and members
74 provided some suggestions on adding links, grammar, and punctuation. Ms. Potter
75 offered to send more links to Ms. McNelly to be added to the article. Ms. McNelly also
76 said that she had some nice pictures of garlic mustard, which she can add. Ms. Kent
77 suggested that once Ms. McNelly is done editing, she can send it to her to work on the
78 links. According to the poll taken, all present members agreed with the above.

79

80 **Field study request**

81 Chair Kent displayed an email from UNH PH.D student Andrew Butler with a request to
82 conduct fieldwork on a subset of Town properties for a project evaluating methods of
83 monitoring furbearer occurrences and studying their habitat relationships. This would
84 be done by deploying camera traps in the summer and track stations in the fall. Ms.
85 Kent also displayed the project document with a more thorough description. Members
86 discussed the objectives, the time frame (May 2021 to June 2022) and possible

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87 locations. Ms. Bridgeo noted that the document mentions using scent and lure at the
88 camera locations and wondered if this would become an issue at the Riverside Park
89 (scent is a skunk scent), and also make the experiment invalid. Members discussed the
90 details of the experiment, and the fact that scent and lure will be used on a subset of
91 locations, and not on a control subset. A poll was taken, and all members agreed that it
92 was a reasonable request, and it can be granted. It was also suggested to invite the
93 student to a future ConsCom meeting to present the findings, which the Commission
94 then could report in the Town news. Ms. Kent will contact Mr. Butler.

95
96 Ms. Potter asked Ms. Kent if she could address something not on the agenda. Ms. Kent
97 agreed. Ms. Potter spoke about some private Facebook pages, where the Town
98 residents were discussing the ConsCom actions regarding Flint Hill Forest and rock
99 collecting in a rather negative way, and whether the members should be monitoring
100 things like this and providing some feedback. Ms. Kent noted that the Town social
101 media policy gives preference for any Town related issues to the Town website or Town
102 owned and run pages. She added that all the meetings are open to the public, and that
103 the Commission always welcomes public input. There is also an official ConsCom
104 Facebook page, which is monitored, or people can email the Commission or send
105 letters.

106
107 **Tree stands - Dearborn - Kris**

108 Chair Kent said that Ms. Holleran spotted a tree stand during a walk at the Dearborn
109 Forest and followed up with Fish & Game as she was worried about liability issues. Ms.
110 Kent displayed the response from Fish & Game, which stated that the Town would not
111 be liable if permission had not been given. Removing the stand is possible, however,
112 the stand owner would need to be notified by leaving a note on site for the next
113 hunting season, and the materials would need to be stored somewhere for that long as
114 well. Ms. Kent said another option would be to leave the stand but put up a warning
115 sign regarding safety. Members discussed various statutory regulations regarding such
116 stands and permissions to erect them on any land. Ms. Bridgeo offered to send more
117 information to Ms. Holleran on permits/regulations, and Ms. Kent said she would discuss
118 this with the Town Manager.

119
120 **NHACC Website review**

121 Chair Kent displayed the main page of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation
122 Commissions and explained to the new members where they would sign up and
123 encouraged them to do so, as well as familiarize themselves with the website.
124 Ms. Bridgeo also invited everyone to attend an open forum at her farm on June 5th.

125
126 **Town property site walk - schedule**

127 Ms. Kent took a poll of who is available on both days this weekend. She said she will
128 check with the rest of the members and come up with a date, which she will email to
129 everyone.

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Robinson Hill easement monitoring-update

Ms. Kent said she attended the monitoring site walk and it went well. There were no issues to report besides the recently upgraded drainage area being torn up by ATV's. There will be a report from Bear-Paw submitted soon.

Bear-Paw Easement Monitoring Schedule

Chair Kent said there was nothing to report yet.

LRAC Raymond Representative appointed

Chair Kent said that Therese Thompson has been appointed to represent Raymond on the Committee.

Finance

Conservation Fund Statement - April (if available)

Statement was not available.

Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2021 meeting minutes draft was reviewed, and one change was suggested. were made. After a motion made by Mr. Unger and a second by Ms. Kent, it was discovered that there was no quorum of members who were present at that meeting to vote on the minutes. Review was deferred to the next meeting.

Correspondence

- Model Drinking Water Regulation Workshop – May 24th from 2 to 4 PM via Zoom;
- NHDES-24 Deerfield Road - Shoreland complaint;
- TM town property letter – final – the Town Manager thanked ConsCom for all their work;
- Conservation easements on website – a Facebook message from a resident about finding related documents. Ms. Kent responded that a right to know would need to be submitted. Members took a poll on whether it would be appropriate to post them on the website. Everyone present agreed;
- Trail camera – rookery – email suggesting a trail camera by the rookery. Members discussed the possibility of disturbing the birds even by installing the trail cam and logistics of having it run continuously. Ms. Bridgeo suggested to contact a local resident who takes wildlife pictures with a zoom lens to see if he would be interested in taking pictures;
- Pollinator Pathways Newsletter – April;
- Photos submitted – spotted salamander and turkey eggs.
- Update of GRANIT – Ms. Kent noted that one of the members, who is very familiar with all the conservation properties, would need to volunteer to work on the update. She said she would check with Ms. McDonald.

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173 **Future meetings (Zoom vs in person)**

174 Members discussed the future meeting and took a poll. All members in attendance were
175 in favor of resuming the meetings in person. Ms. Kent said that she will check with the
176 members who are not currently present. She also noted that there will probably be a
177 second meeting in May, as there is a subdivision plan that the Commission would need
178 to review before the Planning Board meeting.

179

180 **Adjournment**

181 **Adjournment poll: Jan Kent – yes; Melissa Potter – yes; Deb McNelly – yes;**
182 **and Mike Unger - yes.**

183

184 The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

185

186 Respectfully Submitted,

187

188 Alvina Snegach

189 Recording Secretary