

Town of Raymond
Conservation Commission DRAFT Minutes of
July 14, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jan Kent, Chair
Kathy McDonald, Vice Chair
Kris Holleran
Michael Unger
Melissa Potter

Meeting Called to Order by:

Chair Jan Kent at 7:00 PM

Commission Members Excused:

Deb McNelly

Commission Members Absent:

Recording Secretary:

Alvina Snegach

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Patricia Bridgeo
Therese Thompson

Public Input:

Therese Thompson introduced herself and said that she had recently been appointed to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee to represent Raymond. She spoke about her experience on the committee, as she has previously served as a member for Nottingham, as well as her interests and activities. Ms. Thompson asked the ConsCom to let her know if there is anything she can help with. Members thanked Ms. Thompson for coming in to introduce herself, and Ms. Kent said that she will add her to the email list when anything regarding the river is on the agenda.

Agenda Items

Mareld Property subdivision -Map 28-4 Lot 12 & Map 29 Lot 2
Special permit - wetland Impact

Jan Kent noted that this case was before the ConsCom in June, and there was also a sitewalk at the property later that month. She said that the Planning Board is meeting tomorrow, therefore, ConsCom would need to provide the comments in a letter, which they can finalize today. She also noted that ConsCom will have an opportunity to comment on the NHDES wetlands permit once it has been submitted. Joe Coronati and Jim Gove from Jones and Beach Engineers were there on behalf of the developer. Mr. Gove said that the NHDES permit was just delivered to the Town and will be hand delivered to NHDES tomorrow. Mr. Coronati went over the plan with color coded wetland and buffer impacts and said that nothing has changed since the last time the plan was presented. He said that most issues have been resolved with the Technical Review Committee (TRC) except for traffic design and meeting the "no net loss" ordinance criteria. He showed the two proposed retention ponds that will be created, which will total about 5,300 square feet together, which should offset the 3,850 square

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44 feet of wetland impact. Jan Kent noted that the Plan has a different set of numbers for
45 buffer impacts and that it would need to be clarified, as it does not match what was
46 presented. Mr. Coronati said that whatever is listed on the plan is correct. He and Mr.
47 Gove also answered questions about vegetation in and around the proposed retention
48 ponds and how that would make them wildlife friendly; about proposal to mow the
49 slopes and areas around the ponds once a year in the fall to avoid disturbing nesting
50 birds; and about adding a note to the plan stating how the 'no net loss' ordinance
51 would be met. Ms. Kent asked the ConsCom members who were at the sitewalk to
52 speak about their observations as well as for their comments that the ConsCom may
53 submit to the Planning Board. Mr. Unger first clarified the difference between the
54 retention pond, which retains water throughout the year, and a detention pond, that
55 only detains stormwater for some time, and noted that the proposed ponds are in fact
56 retention ponds. He also said that he thought it was a good plan to create these ponds
57 to collect runoff and mitigate wetland impacts, which allows for the impacted wetland
58 to keep some of its function after development. He added that the wetland did not have
59 the highest value to begin with. Ms. Potter agreed with Mr. Unger and added that with
60 the condition of mowing once a year the plan is reasonable.

61 Mr. Gove also read from the Natural Heritage Bureau data check results, which stated
62 that even though there were hits of rare and threatened species near the area, there
63 will be no impacts to those from the project.

64 Mr. Kent said that the draft of the letter needs to be discussed, which the ConsCom will
65 do tonight, and she will send it to the Planning Board once it is finalized.

66 Members discussed the draft letter and agreed to make the following changes to it:

- 67 - Add the date of the plan 06/17/2021 in the introduction paragraph;
- 68 - Match the plan wetland/buffer impact numbers for both temporary and
69 permanent impacts in the first paragraph, as well as add language about the site
70 being previously disturbed to the sentence with the description of the wetland
71 low function;
- 72 - Expand the second paragraph about members' observations with the language
73 that some of the impacted wetland will be retained after the development and
74 the newly created wet ponds will be collecting water from the development;
- 75 - Add the clarification "wet pond" after the words retention pond (first occurrence)
76 in the third paragraph and change the words stormwater retention ponds to
77 "stormwater detention ponds" adding (dry ponds in the end) to distinguish the
78 two types; and clarify that the wet pond differs from the dry pond as they would
79 be designed to retain water throughout the year. Add the "note C3" to the
80 missing note number in that same paragraph.

81
82 There were following recommendations from the ConsCom were suggested to add to
83 the letter:

- 84 - The wetland scientist recommended that mowing the area surrounding both
85 ponds be restricted to late October, which will enhance the habitat value for
86 wildlife, especially for nesting birds, therefore, the ConsCom recommends that

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87 this condition is added to the plan as well as the description of now the 'no net
88 loss' ordinance will be met. Otherwise, the Commission has no concerns with the
89 project as presented.

90 Ms. Kent will add all the edits and will distribute the letter to the members before
91 sending it to the Planning Board. If anyone had any other suggestions, they could send
92 them to her via email.

93 **Ms. Holleran made a motion to approve the ConsCom draft letter to the**
94 **Planning Board regarding the Mareld subdivision as amended to be sent to**
95 **the Planning Board. Mr. Unger duly seconded and motion passed with a**
96 **unanimous vote in favor.**

97

98 **August Newsletter - review article**

99 Chair Kent displayed the article by Ms. McDonald about recreational activities in
100 Raymond. Members discussed the content and proposed small changes and links to be
101 added to it. Ms. McDonald and Ms. Kent will finalize it. Then members brainstormed
102 about the topics for future letters. Ms. Potter will draft a letter about milkweed and
103 Monarchs for the next meeting for members to review.

104

105 **Ethics Training**

106 Gretchen Gott from Raymond Ethics Committee joined the meeting together with Phill
107 Merrell who was also there to participate. Ms. Gretchen distributed the handouts and
108 went over the presentation and the Town of Raymond Ethics Code. She noted that it is
109 a requirement for all the Town volunteer boards to go through such training once a
110 year. Members discussed possible scenarios and discussed how it applies to them as
111 board members. Ms. Gott also explained the process of handling inquiries or complaints
112 related to ethics. Ms. Gott concluded her training by mentioning that the Code of Ethics
113 is available on the Town website and noting that there is also training on RSA 91:A
114 (Right to Know Law) which is available to all volunteers and urged them to attend.

115

116 **Cassier parking area - review proposal**

117 Chair Kent displayed the Request for Quote draft and the actual plan for the repairs to
118 the parking lot and the members went over both. Ms. Kent explained why she chose
119 the route of requesting quotes and members discussed the proposed timeframe to
120 complete the work between September and November of 2021 as being a possible
121 constraint to some contractors, who may not even respond knowing that they are not
122 available then. It was agreed to remove the dates and to change the Submission of
123 Quotes language to note that submission of quotes and date of availability will be
124 discussed at the September ConsCom meeting, and change the submission deadline to
125 August 31, 2021.

126 Ms. Kent noted that it was getting late and that the remaining items on the agenda will
127 have to be taken up at another time.

128 Then the members briefly discussed whether a second meeting is needed in July. Ms.
129 Kent said that she will email everyone later.

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130 **Other items**

131 Ms. McDonald noted that Taking Action for Wildlife is looking for volunteers and the
132 applications are due on August 6, 2021, and that all the training is online.

133 Ms. Kent noted that there are Lamprey River brochures available to take home.

134 Chair Kent also said that the Board of Selectmen received a request to bait bear and
135 deer on Town property and requested recommendations from the ConsCom. She will
136 email the materials to all members to discuss at a future meeting.

137 Ms. Kent said that all other items on the agenda will be taken up at the next meeting.

138 **Adjournment**

139 **Ms. Holleran made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Ms.**
140 **McDonald and passed with a unanimous vote in favor.**

141

142 The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

143

144 Respectfully Submitted,

145

146 Alvina Snegach

147 Recording Secretary