

## Raymond Conservation Commission Site Walk – DRAFT Minutes

May 16, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. at end of Birch Court

Minutes: Site walk for Town-owned properties

Map/Lot	Access Off	Acres
021/000/029 and 021/000/030	Birch Court	7.0 and 5.99
005/000/016 and 005/000/071	Jennifer Lane	4.54 and 2.34
017/000/103	Washington Drive	8.1

Chair Jan Kent called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. at the end of Birch Court.

Conservation Commission members present were: Jan Kent, Kathy MacDonald, Mike Unger, and Melissa Potter.

Members of the public were: Patricia Bridgeo.

Chair Kent explained the purpose of this site walk was to conduct a site walk of Town-owned lots in order to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Lots 021/000/029 and 021/000/030 were walked first. Access to Lot 30 is off the end of Birch Court, a cul-de-sac off Green Road. Lot 29 has no road frontage. The southern part of Lot 30 is forested with predominantly large pines. A wildlife trail was observed. The terrain slopes down steeply to a stream which flows east to west into a large wetlands and pond on both Lots 30 and 29. A rebar property marker labelled “RSL 490” was observed, presumed to be the corner with abutting Lot 31. What appeared to be an old shooting range was observed. An old wooden platform appeared to be on Lot 31, and markers labelled “100 ft” and “50 ft” and a small wooden target platform were on Town-owned Lot 30. Two game cameras and a tree stand were observed in this area. At the stream, the forest transitions to hardwood, including oak, white birch, and beech. The terrain rises steeply to the north. Ledge outcrops were observed. The group crossed the stream and walked along the northern slope of the wetlands and pond to near the property line between Lots 30 and 29. Lot 29 consists almost entirely of wetlands and the pond; only a small corner can be accessed on upland. Fresh orange survey tape and a boundary pin were observed at a wire fence running north-south, presumed to be the property line between abutting Lots 021/000/039 and 026/000/001. No good access to the pond was observed from Town property; the terrain is too steep, and the wetlands surrounding the pond are too wide.

Lots 005/000/016 and 005/000/071 were walked next. Both lots are almost entirely wetlands and open water, so they were observed only from the road (Jennifer Lane). A culvert under Jennifer Lane connects the two lots hydraulically. Water flows from south to north to the Exeter River, which is approximately 150 feet to the north. Town tax maps show both properties being almost entirely in the flood plain. Several painted turtles and a red winged blackbird were observed. The 2002 Town Natural Resource Assessment describes these properties as “an interesting alder and sedge wetland associated with the

Exeter River” and states “the combination of water, dense shrubs and herbaceous vegetation makes this a valuable area for wildlife species associated with wetlands”. It recommends retaining these properties for wildlife habitat and wildlife observation.

Lastly, Lot 017/000/103 was walked. The northern portion of this lot covers the large wetland bordered by Washington Drive to the west and Wendover Lane to the north. This wetland feeds Gancy Pond to the east, which in turn feeds the Exeter River. The upland on the southern portion of the lot is accessible from Washington Drive on a shared driveway that becomes a woods road. Much of the upland is covered in brush and saplings starting to repopulate a previously cleared area that the 2002 Town Natural Resource Assessment describes as an old gravel borrow pit. A small clearing on the bank of the wetland area is accessible off the woods road and is excellent for wildlife viewing. A beaver lodge was observed in the wetland. Several types of wildflower covered the clearing. Several birds were heard. The group looked for property markers to the east but found none.

Jan made a motion to adjourn, and Kathy seconded, the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Unger