

Raymond Conservation Commission Site Walk

March 7, 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.

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 members present were: Jan Kent, Kathy McDonald, and Mike Unger.

Members of the public were: Pam Hall.

Chair Kent introduced the purpose of the site walk. 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 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.

The original intent was to walk all 5 properties. However, due to time constraints, only Lots 007/000/013 and 007/000/009 were walked. The Commission intends to walk the other 3 properties at a future date.

A marker was observed on a tree near the road, which may have been on Town-owned Map007/Lot 007 and read, "This property is protected by a Conservation Easement held by Rockingham County Conservation District, Brentwood, NH (603) 679-2790, www.rockinghamccd.org". Chair Kent offered to conduct additional research into this property.

Attendees walked Lot 009 from south to north. The following features of conservation interest were observed: many large trees including white birch; natural drainage and running water flowing to the

north from the road into a large beaver pond; stone wall running west to east near the southern boundary of the property; a very large boulder (approx. 15+ feet tall) near the western property boundary, which may have been on the abutting property in Chester; mix of uplands, including rock outcrops, and wetlands; evidence of animal life – tracks, seed shells, broken branches – including deer, beaver, squirrel, and others not identified (tracks were difficult to identify due to recent snow melt). A canoe and some trash were observed on the southern shore of the pond near the power line clearing. Trash was collected to be disposed of later. Before reaching the northern property line, the large beaver pond bisected the property. The group walked to the power line clearing to cross the pond at a narrower point. Water was observed flowing from the pond over a wide, short beaver dam to the east into a large wetland and pond on Lot 013.

The northern boundary of Lot 009 was not reached. Aerial photos show Fordway Brook crossing Lot 009 and the power line clearing to the north of where the site walk ended and flowing into the same large wetland and pond on Lot 013 that the beaver pond flows into. It was not clear how the beaver pond is fed.

The group then walked south along the western border of Lot 013. There is only a narrow strip of upland forest between the power line clearing and the large wetlands and pond to the east. A dirt road was observed heading from the power line property to the east south of the pond. It was not clear where the property boundary was between the Eversource property and Lots 011 (not Town-owned), 012 (not Town-owned) and 013 (Town owned). The group returned to the parking lot via the power line clearing.

[Note: After the site walk was adjourned, Mike Unger observed a tall stone dam to the north of Shatagee Road where Fordway Brook crosses under the road. This dam may be on the southern portion of Town-owned Lot 013.]

Kathy motioned to adjourn, Mike seconded, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 A.M. Next meeting is March 10, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Unger