

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

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jan Kent, Chair
Kathy McDonald (Vice Chair)
Michael Unger
Kris Holleran

Meeting Called to Order by:

Chair Jan Kent at 6:30 PM

Commission Members Excused:

Deb McNelly (Secretary)

Commission Members Absent:

Melissa Porter

RCTV representative:

Kathy Masso

Recording Secretary:

Alvina Snegach

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Patricia Bridgeo – interested in becoming a member of the Commission (4th meeting attended).
Rue Teel – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways

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
Kathy McDonald
Michael Unger
Kris Holleran

Public Input:

There was none.

Agenda Items

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways – Rue Teel

Chair Kent said that a representative from Bear-Paw (an organization which holds easements on 4 town owned properties) was present to speak about the easement monitoring and issues found at the Dearborn property. Rue Teel introduced herself and spoke about her recent visitation of the Dearborn forest where she had found a recently created mountain bike trail that was over three miles long, and it looked like it was not finished yet. She said the extent of the soil disturbance was quite large, as the people excavated, cut small trees, moved earth, and exposed some areas to erosion and runoff. Ms. Teel also noted that this property is home to many federally protected species and this type of disturbance is very problematic and is unacceptable. She also

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

44 said that it could potentially become a liability issue for the town. Ms. Teel added that a
45 forest management plan would be helpful for the town to determine the types and
46 numbers of trails it would allow on the property and to make sure that sensitive species
47 are protected, while people can still enjoy using the property. She said that Bear-Paw
48 can recommend foresters, if the town would like to create a forest management plan.
49 She also suggested placing trail cameras to make sure that any such activity is caught
50 early on. Ms. Teel has contacted NH Fish & Game and will walk the property with a
51 conservation officer. She said that she had already walked the property with the
52 ConsCom members. Ms. Teel also added that she noticed that the Kiosk was damaged
53 and said that Bear-Paw would be working with several towns on replacing/fixing kiosks
54 and Raymond could join in.

55 Ms. Kent said that the Kiosk was damaged by a tree, and that the commission is aware
56 of it and will be planning to restore it. Ms. Holleran also spoke about the mountain bike
57 trail and how extensive the disturbance was. She said that she found several mountain
58 bike groups on Facebook but was unable to join them. Another organization she found
59 was the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) which provides
60 recommendations on how to create/use the trails safely without damaging them and
61 keeping a good relationship with the property owners. Ms. Holleran added that NEMBA
62 has some grant money for building mountain bike trails the right way.

63 Ms. Teel stated that she contacted the NHDES and will contact NEMBA to see if they
64 could advise on how to work with people who would like to use the existing trails for
65 mountain biking. She added that if the town allows such use of trails, it would be very
66 helpful if the bikers would be informed of the rules and consequences.

67 Members then discussed the need to file a police report and attach any pictures that
68 Ms. Holleran or Ms. McDonald have as they have been out there. A copy of the police
69 report should also be submitted to the Town Manager. Another suggestion was made to
70 find out what the restoration cost may be and if it could be recovered from the people
71 who are responsible for the damage. Ms. Kent said that the hourly rate for restoration
72 work could be used as a measure of the cost.

73 Members also discussed lack of signage, since many signs are being taken down; the
74 extent of the damage along the newly created trail; difficulty of keeping the people
75 from using these trails once they have been created; the need to set a disciplinary
76 precedent to avoid this from happening again; restoration; and impact of trails on
77 wildlife on the property. Members agreed to coordinate amongst themselves to make
78 another visit to the property.

79 Ms. Kent also displayed a newsletter from Bear-Paw with information on trainings for
80 becoming an eco-monitor and learning about vernal pools, and an invitation to join the
81 Global Clean Up initiative and to celebrate Earth Week by going out and cleaning up.
82 Ms. Holleran added some information about online vernal pool training and Ms.
83 McDonald said that there will be a day of clean up conducted by the Raymond Coalition
84 for Youth.

85 **Bear-Paw Easement Monitoring Schedule and Site walks to be scheduled**

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

86 Chair Kent displayed a list of site walks to be scheduled and noted that the one on
87 Robinson Hill property will take place this Sunday, April 18th at 10 AM. The rest of the
88 site walks for Flint, Dearborn, and Cassier would have to take place later in May. She
89 then went over the other site walks that would need to be scheduled: 4 Freedom Road,
90 DOT bridge work on Route 27, and the powerlines along Route 27 (Ms. Holleran will be
91 driving by there this or next week). After a quick poll for day of the week preference,
92 Ms. Kent said that she will try to come up with a schedule to discuss later.

93 **Town Properties- Review Letter to TM/BOS**

94 Chair Kent displayed a draft letter and said that some of the properties were walked in
95 March of 2020 and some in March of 2021. She then read the descriptions and
96 members discussed each property and recommendations from the ConsCom. The
97 recommendations were as follows for each of the properties on:

- 98 - Lane Road – no conservation interest;
- 99 - Old Bye Road (two lots) – to be kept as open space for surrounding
100 developments;
- 101 - Watson Hill Road – no conservation interest;
- 102 - Richard Court – keep to help with protecting the water quality of Fordway Brook;
103 (Ms. Holleran will check if the property could qualify for the ARM Fund money as
104 there may have been an old gravel pit there);
- 105 - Glen Ridge Road and Essex Drive – retain for stormwater management purposes;
- 106 - Main Street – retain as open space for fishing, scenic area, and wildlife corridor
107 along the river;
- 108 - Three properties across Route 102/107 on the Lamprey River downstream from
109 the gorge – retain for floodwater retention.

110 Another property on Lane Road was taken off the list as the members would need more
111 time to look at it.

112 Ms. Kent took a poll on the recommendations and the members voted as follows: **Ms.**
113 **McDonald – yes; Ms. Holleran – yes; Mr. Unger – yes.** Ms. Kent will finalize and
114 send to the Board of Selectmen.

115 **May Newsletter - review article**

116 Chair Kent displayed the article by Kristi Battistelli on bats and said that she had added
117 the author's name to it along with some links, one of which is the link to ConsCom
118 website. Members discussed other topics to cover in the future.

119 **Cassier Vandalism**

120 Chair Kent displayed the pictures from the Cassier forest vandalism police report and
121 went over the timeline of events, since the damage (like cut trees and
122 damaged/missing signs) was not done all at once. Members discussed whether trail
123 cameras would be helpful and the need to get some volunteers to come up and clean
124 up as the cut trees were quite big.

125 **Website updates**

126 Ms. Kent displayed the updated ConsCom page and went over the changes. Ms.
127 Holleran suggested that the "find it" button next to each Town property should also
128 have a street name written next to it to give people an idea of where they are.

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

129 **Finance**

- 130 - Conservation Fund balance as of March 31, 2021 was \$271,428.24.
131 - Dubois & King final invoice for \$512.60.
132 - Conservation Fund approved withdrawal form for minute taker expenses in
133 the amount of \$2,200.00 for the period from 04/01/2021 to 03/31/2022.

134

135 **Approval of Minutes**

136 *March 10, 2021 meeting minutes* draft was reviewed, and no changes were made. **Mr.**
137 **Unger made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021 as**
138 **presented; Kathy McDonald duly seconded. Motion carried by a roll call vote**
139 **of 4:0: as follows: Mike Unger – yes; Jan Kent – yes; Kathy McDonald – yes;**
140 **and Kris Holleran – yes.**

141 *March 20, 2021 site walk minutes* draft was reviewed, and no changes were made. **Ms.**
142 **Kent made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2021 site walk as**
143 **presented; Kris Holleran duly seconded. Motion carried by a roll call vote of**
144 **4:0 as follows: Kris Holleran; Jan Kent – yes; Kathy McDonald – yes; and**
145 **Mike Unger – yes.**

146 *March 23, 2021 site walk minutes* draft was reviewed, and some changes were made.
147 **Ms. Kent made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021 site walk**
148 **as amended; Kathy McDonald duly seconded. Motion carried by a roll call**
149 **vote of 3:0:1 as follows: Kris Holleran; Jan Kent – yes; Kathy McDonald – yes;**
150 **and Mike Unger – abstained due to not being present.**

151 Minutes from April site walks were not yet available.

152 **Correspondence**

- 153 - Kathy Lee's email about ending her term on the ConsCOM but still being
154 interested in being involved with the ConsCom – members thanked Ms. Lee
155 for her volunteer effort on the ConsCom.
156 - LCIP March Newsletter.
157 - NH Fish & Game letter about Trails for People and Wildlife project;
158 - Supply Lines with the Source winter edition

159 **Benefits of protecting land and water links**

160 Chair Kent displayed a document with some links on the benefits of protecting land and
161 water resources. Mr. Unger volunteered to write an article for the July or August
162 newsletter on protecting land and water and Ms. Holleran will try to draft one on
163 drought.

164 **Other items that may come before the board**

165 Kris Holleran said she had called NH Fish and Game about the heron rookery and got a
166 response that the herons are recovering nicely, and that Fish&Gaem does not need any
167 additional information about them. Members discussed the need to be careful with
168 providing information about locations of such rookeries as these birds are not the ones
169 to tolerate a lot of attention.

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

170 Ms. McDonald provided information on the training and workshops she had attended
171 and said that there are still tickets available to the Wild and Scenic Film Festival that will
172 be taking place this Friday.

173 **Future Events**

174 Ms. Kent said that she is not yet sure if there is going to be a meeting or just a sitewalk
175 in the second half of April.

176 **Adjournment**

177 **Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Holleran, seconded by Mr. Unger, and passed**
178 **by unanimous roll call vote in favor: Jan Kent – yes; Kathy McDonald – yes;**
179 **Kris Holleran – yes; and Mike Unger - yes.**

180 The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

181

182 Respectfully Submitted,

183

184 Alvina Snegach

185 Recording Secretary