

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Atkinson Town Hall**

Approved September 22, 2021

**Members Present:**

Paul Wainwright, Chair  
Bill Steele, Vice Chair  
Jeff Nenart  
John Fournier  
Suzie Newman  
Monique Chrétien, Alternate  
Hannah Fried, Alternate  
Denise Legault, Alternate (arrived late)

**Others Present:**

Bob Worden, Selectman Liaison

**1. Call to Order, and Attendance:**

Chair Paul Wainwright called the meeting to order at 7:04PM on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Chair Wainwright took attendance and all members are present with the exception of Members McVay & Kukshel; Alternate Members Freed & Chrétien will be voting in their stead.

**2. Review and approval of minutes: July 28, 2021**

Chair Wainwright presented the minutes of the July 28 meeting and asked for comments or corrections, there were none. Chair Wainwright mentioned how disappointed he was that only Bill Steele found the “free ice cream” offer.

**Member Nenart made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 28, 2021 public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, as written. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0/3.**

**3. Treasurer’s report:**

Chair Wainwright produced the latest Treasurer’s report and stated that the only expenses in the last month were to pay for materials for the Sawyer culvert replacement and to pay the recording clerk.

**4. The “Worden Report”:**

Selectman Liaison Bob Worden stated that this is the busiest time of year for the Selectmen, so moving forward he may only attend the beginning portion of meetings rather than stay until the end, unless he has value to add to the discussion.

Mr. Worden stated that he is looking into securing some grant monies to be used towards the handicap accessible trail project proposed for the Slade Town Forest. Chair Wainwright stated that if secured, the initial funding will go towards the professional design of the trail; additional funding will be needed to actually construct the trail once it has been designed. Mr. Worden stated that he is also working on a private fundraiser for the Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission. He continued that this fundraiser will be a comedy night in Town scheduled tentatively for Friday October 22, 2021, and all proceeds will go directly to each of the organizations mentioned above.

## 5. Review and Approval of Revised Hunting Map & Regulations:

Chair Wainwright stated that he's been working on updating the hunting maps and associated regulations with Members Kukshel & Krause. The proposed new map and regulations are attached to these minutes.

Chair Wainwright presented the updated map which clearly delineates which Town lands allow bow hunting only versus which lands allow bow, shotgun & muzzle-loader hunting.

Chair Wainwright stated that the new hunting documents were mostly a clarification of the 2000 and 2013 warrant articles about hunting, with one exception. While NH Fish & Game does not permit rifle hunting for deer anywhere inside of Rockingham County, it does not apparently limit rifle hunting for other species. Scott, Dennis, and he are recommending we prohibit rifle hunting for all species, the reason being that our lands have many uses, and the original issues that caused the warrant article in 2000 to ban all hunting was motivated by rifle rounds entering several homes in town. Chair Wainwright asked the Commission for comments about making this change to policy, and the Members asked and answered a few questions.

**Vice Chair Steele made a motion to limit firearm hunting in Town to shotgun & muzzle-loader only, for all species. Member Fried seconded the motion. Vote: 6/1/0, with Member Nenart voting against the motion.**

Chair Wainwright then asked for comments about the *Atkinson Town Forest Hunting Access & Parking* document, which is a written summary of each of the Town Lands, and noted a few additions to the old document, and a few items that were removed. There were no additional comments.

Chair Wainwright then asked for comments on the *Atkinson Hunting – Frequently Asked Questions* document, and noted the main change being not permitting rifle hunting for any species. There were no additional comments.

Chair Wainwright also showed the Town guidelines on tree-stands and hunting blinds, but noted that no updates or changes were proposed to this document.

Chair Wainwright then presented the proposed “bow-hunting-only” signs and asked for comment. There were none. Chair Wainwright stated that he is ready to place

an order for 12 signs, enough to cover most of the common entrances to the bow-only lands. The signs would be 16 x 24 inches on heavy-weight aluminum, for \$420, including shipping.

Member Nenart asked if the Commission was allowed to expend funds towards this effort because of past warrant articles, and Mr. Worden suggested checking with Town Counsel before spending any funds.

**Member Nenart made a motion to approve the updated hunting documentation and to purchase & post the bow-hunting-only signs, contingent upon confirming with Town Counsel that the expenditure is allowable. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0**

*[Editor's note: approval was obtained from Town Counsel via email on 8/31/2021.]*

#### **6. Review of First Responder Training Materials:**

Mr. Worden stated that he's been working with the Police Chief & Fire Chief on establishing effective emergency plans for the Town lands - specifically Woodlock Park & Collins Park; there is now an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at both of these locations. Mr. Worden continued that he wants to make sure that emergency responders can easily access the Town trails in the event of an emergency. Mr. Worden stated that these preparations will put the Town's first responders in a much better position when they are called on to respond to an emergency.

Chair Wainwright showed some maps & training materials he plans on presenting to the First Responders during a training session on September 13. Chair Wainwright continued that he plans on providing these documents to the Police Department & the Fire Department in hard copy so they may take notes and ask questions about each of the Town's parcels of conservation land. Chair Wainwright asked the Commission what sort of information would be useful to know if someone were hurt out on the trails and calling on First Responders for emergency assistance; the Commission had a brief discussion.

#### **7. Birding Event with Matt Tarr - September 15th, 5:00 - 7:00PM:**

Chair Wainwright stated that he is meeting with UNH Wildlife Biologist Matt Tarr in advance of this event for a preliminary walkthrough, and asked other members to join if able.

#### **8. Offer from Charlie George to "Clean up" the 4-acre McPherson land east of Main Street:**

Chair Wainwright stated that he'd like to try and redirect Charlie George's philanthropic proposal to a project that is more beneficial to the Town Forest. Chair Wainwright stated that he has invited County Forester Greg Jordan to walk this

parcel of land with Mr. George on August 31, and asked for volunteers from the Commission to join since a quorum will be necessary.

## **9. Shorts Reports and Discussions:**

### **a. Trails & Maps**

Chair Wainwright stated that he doesn't have much to update on this project but noted that Dennis still has a healthy supply of maps to replenish them when they run out at their various kiosks and display locations.

### **b. Sawyer Culvert and Leaning Tree**

Chair Wainwright stated that both of these items have been taken care of and completed. The Commission thanked Road Agent Ted Stewart for completing these tasks so quickly.

### **c. BioBlitz Report**

Member Chrétien stated that BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many biological species as possible in a specific area over a given period of time. Member Chrétien continued that anyone who wishes to participate can download the "iNaturalist" phone application and then take pictures of various biological species, noting the location in which the specimen was found. Member Chrétien continued that once the pictures are uploaded, professional researchers review the submissions and they may even come out to the location to confirm the species submitted. Member Chrétien stated, also, that there are usually prizes associated with the best submissions.

Member Chrétien stated that this event runs for the entire month of September, so there is still time to publicize it for this year, if residents are interested in participating. Member Chrétien continued that the UNH Cooperative Extension is also available to lead nature identification walks which can yield lots of good submissions for this event. Chair Wainwright suggested advertising in the local newspaper and in the various Town newsletters in case people want to participate this year, and then the submissions from this year can be used as the benchmark for encouraging further participation next year.

### **d. Wild Atkinson - Status & Next Steps - Pete, Scott, Bill & Dave W.**

Chair Wainwright stated that this video project is still in production due to Dave Williams being swamped with other work at this time.

### **e. RCCD Invasives Control on Sawyer**

Chair Wainwright stated that Phase One of this project was completed in January of this year with all of the mowing and grinding done in the Sawyer Town Forest. Chair Wainwright continued that Phase Two was originally planned to address the land between the area already completed and the area that is considered healthy forest to prevent the invasive plant species from making their way into the healthy forest.



Chair Wainwright read a letter from Arianna Spear of the Rockingham County Conservation District (attached to these minutes), which stated that she visited the areas which still need to be addressed but when she was onsite, she found an abundance of bittersweet vine just beyond the area that was previously not mapped out; since it was not mapped out, this bittersweet vine was not originally identified for treatment. Ms. Spear suggested adding this area to the treatment zone to prevent the bittersweet vine from making its way into the healthy part of the forest.

Ms. Spear stated that she noted more standing water in this area than she had hoped, since the areas cannot be treated while standing water is present. Ms. Spear stated, finally, that the area that was mowed in January has already exploded with vegetation, as expected, and most of this vegetation is made up of invasive species.

Ms. Spear suggested revising the current treatment area for 2021. Chair Wainwright produced two revised treatment map options provided by Ms. Spear (see attached).

Ms. Spear proposed treating the mowed area and areas directly adjacent to the mowed area to push back the invasive plants and help prevent invasive reseeding in that area. Ms. Spear continued that the mowed area along the trail edge and forest edges accounts for about five acres and stated that there are a few options for the remaining two acres; either (Option One) treating the 4H field adjacent to the mowed area and a small portion of the forested interior or (Option Two) leaving the 4H field alone and treating a larger portion of the forested interior adjacent to the mowed area. The Commission had a discussion on which option would be more beneficial and generally agreed that treating the 4H field (Option One) made the most sense.

**Member Fournier made a motion to recommend the Rockingham County Conservation District moves forward with Option One (listed above) for Phase Two of the Sawyer Town Forest Invasive Plant Mitigation project. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0**

**f. Moose Plate Land Conservation Plan – Paul**

Chair Wainwright stated that he has completed the work with the Nature Conservancy to update the GRANIT Database with all conservation lands, dedicated open space, prime wetlands, and parcels on which there are conservation easements. Chair Wainwright stated that the next step is to work with the Rockingham Planning Commission to take these files and conduct co-occurrence mapping, in which they look for areas of Town where there are good opportunities to protect more parcels of land.

**g. Boy Scouts**

Vice Chair Steele stated that the Boy Scouts recently had a planning meeting and they may be requesting permission to camp on a piece of conservation land in the near future, but the final plans have not yet been solidified. Member Newman suggested letting the Boy scouts know about the BioBlitz event so they can earn some conservation service hours.

**10. Other Business:**

**11. Next Meeting - September 22, 2021 (4th Wednesday at 7:00PM)**

**12. Public Hearing - September 29, 2021 at 7:30PM**

- a. To consider spending money from the Conservation Fund to facilitate a conservation easement on Dean & Sue Killam's land. – the Legal Notice is attached to these minutes.
- b. Site walkthrough planned for Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM off of Deer Run Road

**13. Hold the Date: NH ACC Annual Conference will be Saturday, November 6, 2021 via Zoom**

**14. Non-Public Session Under RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for the consideration of the acquisition of land**

**Member Nenart made a motion to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for the consideration of the acquisition of land. Member Newman seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0**

The meeting continued in non-public session. These minutes are in a separate document.

**Member Nenart made a motion to close non-public session. Member Newman seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0/0.**

**Vice Chair Steele made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Member Nenart seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0/0.**

**15. Adjournment**

**Vice Chair Steele made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alternate Fried seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

**Attachments:**

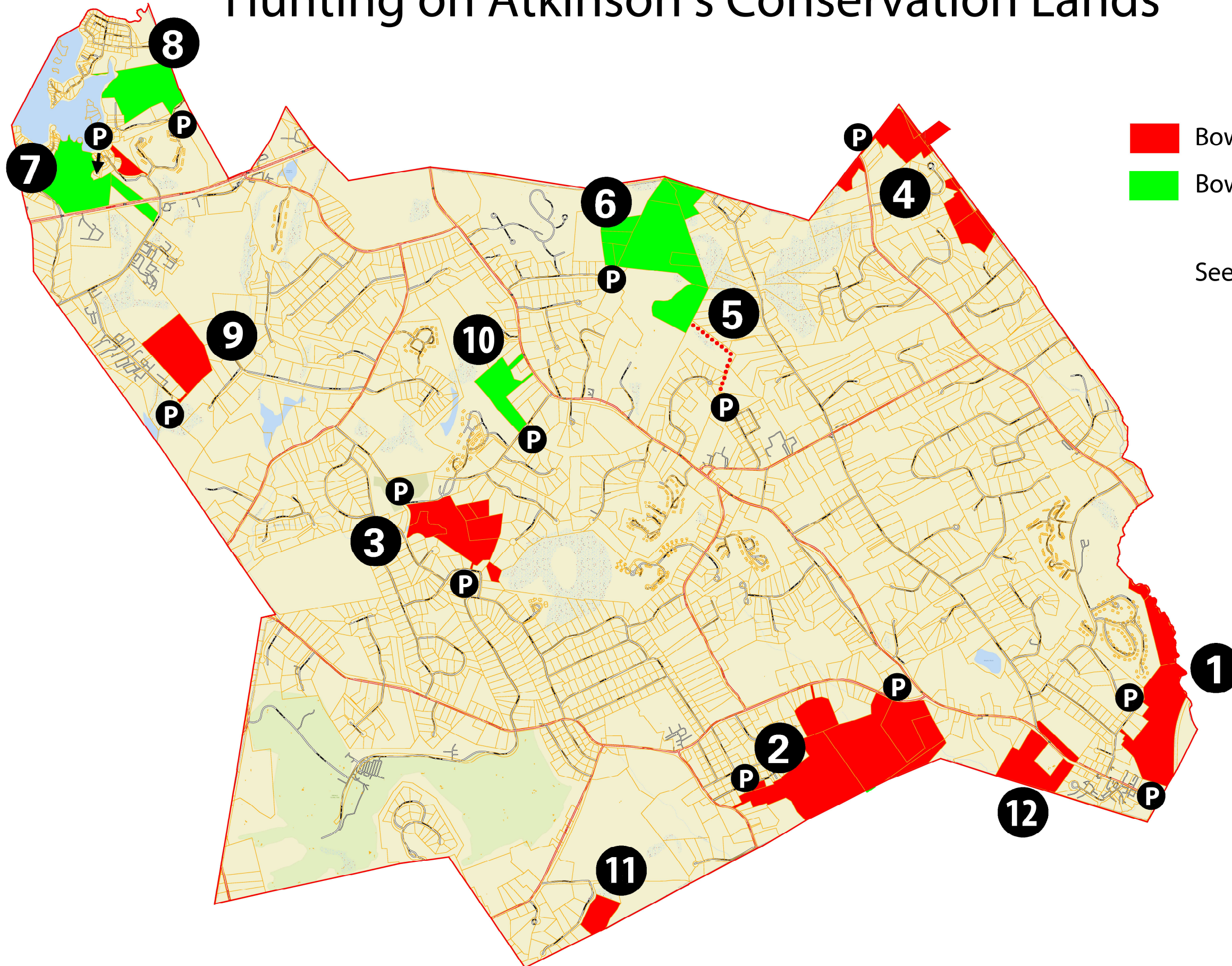
- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Revised Hunting Documents
- c. Letter from Arianna Spear
- d. Legal Notice for the September 29 Public Hearing



Town of Atkinson Conservation Commission 2021 Expenditure Tracking

Account Number	Description	TM Approved 2019 Budget	What	Amount	Date Prepared	Date Submitted	Amount Submitted	YTD Total	YTD Unspent
			Rounding				\$ -		
			July 2021 Minutes	6.5	\$119.34	8/9/2021	8/9/2021	\$119.34	
			June 2021 Minutes	5.5	\$100.98	7/16/2021	7/16/2021	\$100.98	
			May 2021 Minutes	5	\$91.80	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$91.80	
			April 2021 Minutes	5.5	\$100.98	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$100.98	
			March 2021 Minutes	6	\$110.16	4/16/2021	4/16/2021	\$110.16	
			February 2021 Minutes	4	\$73.44	3/12/2021	3/12/2021	\$73.44	
			January 2021 Minutes	4.5	\$82.62	2/8/2021	2/8/2021	\$82.62	
			December 2020 Minutes	5.5	\$100.98	1/7/2021	1/7/2021	\$100.98	\$ 780.30
			Budget Adjustment - removed			00/00/2020		\$ -	
40.46111.110.00	RECORDING CLERK	\$ 1,200.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 419.70
			Rounding				\$ (0.01)		
			July 2021 Minutes		\$7.40	8/9/2021	8/9/2021	\$7.40	
			June 2021 Minutes		\$6.26	7/16/2021	7/16/2021	\$6.26	
			May 2021 Minutes		\$5.69	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$5.69	
			April 2021 Minutes		\$6.26	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$6.26	
			March 2021 Minutes		\$6.83	4/16/2021	4/16/2021	\$6.83	
			February 2021 Minutes		\$4.55	3/12/2021	3/12/2021	\$4.55	
			January 2021 Minutes		\$5.12	2/8/2021	2/8/2021	\$5.12	
			December 2020 Minutes		\$6.26	1/7/2021	1/7/2021	\$6.26	\$ 48.37
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.220.00	FICA .062	\$ 75.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 26.63
			Rounding				\$ (0.01)		
			July 2021 Minutes		\$1.73	8/9/2021	8/9/2021	\$1.73	
			June 2021 Minutes		\$1.46	7/16/2021	7/16/2021	\$1.46	
			May 2021 Minutes		\$1.33	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$1.33	
			April 2021 Minutes		\$1.46	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$1.46	
			March 2021 Minutes		\$1.60	4/16/2021	4/16/2021	\$1.60	
			February 2021 Minutes		\$1.06	3/12/2021	3/12/2021	\$1.06	
			January 2021 Minutes		\$1.20	2/8/2021	2/8/2021	\$1.20	
			December 2020 Minutes		\$1.46	1/7/2021	1/7/2021	\$1.46	\$ 11.30
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.225.00	Medicare .0145	\$ 20.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 8.70
			Charlie Moreno - timber appraisal on 20-37-1		\$318.75	2/11/2021	2/11/2021	\$318.75	\$ 318.75
			Budget Adjustment - added			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.390.00	OTHER PROF SERVICES	\$ 2,500.00	Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 2,181.25
			Hamp Print & Copy - Trail Maps & Brochure		\$453.16	5/17/2021	5/17/2021	\$453.16	
			Hamp Print & Copy - Trail Maps & Brochure		\$336.00	2/18/2021	2/18/2021	\$336.00	
			Hamp Print & Copy - Marshall brochure		\$50.00	2/3/2021	2/3/2021	\$50.00	\$ 839.16
			Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.550.00	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$ 1,000.00	Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 160.84
			NHACC Dues					\$ -	
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.560.00	DUES/SUBS/MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 500.00	Budget Adjustment - added			8/12/2019		\$ -	\$ 500.00
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.620.00	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 1.00
			Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.625.00	POSTAGE	\$ 1.00	Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 1.00
			Pipe for culvert replacement on Sawyer		\$759.50	8/19/2021	8/19/2021	\$759.50	
			Corrected Bojndary Markers		\$445.50	7/9/2021	7/12/2021	\$445.50	
			Conservation Land Boundary Markers		\$450.00	Order re-done			
			Easement Boundary Markers		\$523.60	6/22/2021	6/22/2021	\$523.60	\$ 1,728.60
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.650.00	CARE OF GROUNDS	\$ 2,500.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 771.40
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.740.00	NEW EQUIPMENT	\$ 300.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 300.00
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.820.00	(2021 rate: \$0.56 per mile) MILEAGE	\$ 39.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 39.00
			Barry Conservation Camp - Jake Martineau		\$330.00	Cancelled - Check returned 7/12/2021			
			Jack Carrubba - Eagle project (estimate)		\$94.03				
			Acrylic holders for Ryan Torris' Eagle project		\$56.04	3/12/2021	3/12/2021	\$56.04	\$ 56.04
			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.840.00	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$ 1,000.00	Budget Adjustment - removed			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 943.96
			NHACC Handbooks for Monique and Hannah		\$20.00	4/20/2021	4/20/2021	\$20.00	\$ 20.00
			Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.850.00	EDUCATION & CONFERENCES	\$ 250.00	Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 230.00
			Replacement signs for Marshall TF vandalism		\$30.00	4/16/2021	4/16/2021	\$30.00	
			Revised Sawyer trails plastic signs		\$38.92	2/24/2021	2/24/2021	\$38.92	\$ 68.92
			Budget Adjustment			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.875.00	SIGNS	\$ 500.00	Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 431.08
			TOTALS					\$ 3,871.44	\$ 6,014.56



# Hunting on Atkinson's Conservation Lands



-  Bow Hunting Only
-  Bow, Shotgun, and Muzzle Loader Only

See parcel descriptions for details

Bow-hunting-only land is posted with the following:

**BOW HUNTING ONLY**

Pursuant to Atkinson Town Meeting warrants 2000-31 and 2013-6, **only bow hunting** is allowed in this Town Forest.

This applies to all species and all seasons.

A **bow hunting permit** is required from the Atkinson Selectmen's office, and you must carry this with you while hunting.

All NH Fish & Game regulations must also be followed.

Violators of this policy may be charged with Criminal Trespass pursuant to NH RSA 635:2.



## Atkinson Town Forest Hunting Access and Parking

Hunting with bow, shotgun, or muzzleloader is allowed on Town-owned parcels in areas 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 with no Town permit required. (All NH Fish and Game rules, seasons, and regulations must be followed at all times). These five areas abut swamps or ponds and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Bow and crossbow hunting is allowed on Town-owned parcels in areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, and 12 with a special Atkinson Bow Hunting permit available from the Selectmen's Office.

A larger scale PDF map of the conservation lands and trails is available on the town's web page at [http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com/conservation\\_trails\\_lands.html](http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com/conservation_trails_lands.html)

### 1/ Caroline Orr Town Forest (61 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. Park at the Community Center or use the trail at the end of Robie Lane.

### 2/ Sawyer Town Forest (140 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. Park at the trailhead on the South side of Sawyer Ave near Main Street, or along Juniper Lane at the marked trailhead there.

### 3/ Chadwick Town Forest and Woodlock Trails (51 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. No hunting is allowed in the Woodlock Park Recreation Area. Park in the recreation lot at the end of Woodlock Park Lane or by the trailhead on the side of Hovey Meadow Road.

### 4/ Chambers-Fila - Crown Hill Town Forest (40 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This land abuts the Plaistow and Hampstead Town Forests. Park (where marked) along the driveway that enters the Town Forest on the east side of East Road by a small cemetery at the Hampstead town line. Or use the Plaistow Town Forest parking lot on the West side of Route 121A.

### 5 & 6/ Sawmill Swamp Town Forest (94 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed on this backland. There is a small parking area at the end of Knightland Road with access to the northern area (parcel #6), and there is a parking area at the end of Woodlawn Ave and a trail easement (to the right through the gap in the stone wall) across private land to access the southern area (parcel #5). However, the terms of the easement prohibit hunting on the private land.

### 7/ Ruth Stickney Town Forest (32 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. There is a parking area at the end of Lakeside Drive on the left.



#### 8/ Marshall Town Forest (35 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. Follow Boulder Cove Road, watching for a cellar hole on the right near the town line. The parking area and trailhead is on the right after the cellar hole.

#### 9/ Judge Marshall (no relation) Town Forest (31 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. There is a small parking area at the end of Industrial Drive (but no trail).

#### 10/ Slade Town Forest (19 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. The property runs to the edge of Stewart Farm Pond, providing opportunities for duck hunting. Park on North side of Pope Road.

#### 11/ Brushwood Drive Town Forest (10 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This land is almost entirely swamp, and can be easily seen from Brushwood Drive. Note that there is a fire pond and hydrant close to the road, so parking here is restricted.

#### 12/ Ruth McPherson Town Forest (28 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This parcel straddles the very busy Route 121/Main Street, but there is currently no parking area or trails into this parcel. We suggest asking an abutting landowner for access.



# Hunting on Town of Atkinson Lands

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General FAQs

Q: Is hunting restricted on Town lands in Atkinson?

A: In-season hunting which follows all NH Fish and Game regulations is allowed on most undeveloped Town lands and Town Forests, with some restrictions. In 2000, after hunting incidents where rifle rounds were fired into some homes, Town Meeting banned all hunting on most parcels of Town land which abut residential areas. In 2013, concerns were raised over Lyme Disease and the increasing deer herd, and so Town Meeting voted to allow bow hunting by permit from the Selectmen's Office in all of the Town Forests, including several for which hunting was previously banned.

Q: How do I know where I can and cannot hunt?

A: Hunting is banned on all Town land with recreational fields or inhabited buildings. The use of rifles for deer hunting is banned in all of Rockingham County, and the Atkinson Conservation Commission has voted to ban rifle hunting for all species. Hunting using bow, shotgun, or muzzleloader is permitted on five specific Town Forest parcels which are large enough to safely discharge firearms. Bow hunting is allowed on most other Town Forest lands. An up-to-date map of the Town Forest lands and the hunting rules for each parcel is available in the Selectmen's Office and on the Town web site.

Q: What are the hunting restrictions I must follow?

A: All hunters must follow and abide by all NH Fish and Game Hunting rules, seasons and regulations, summaries of which may be found at these locations:

- <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/>
- <http://www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/hunting/general-hunting-regulations/>
- <http://www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/hunting/deer-hunting-regulations/>

Specific rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hunting is allowed only by shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, handguns in certain specific calibers, or bow and arrow or crossbow. No cartridge rifle hunting is allowed anywhere in Atkinson.
- It is illegal to discharge a firearm or shoot with a bow and arrow or crossbow and bolt or a .22 caliber or larger air rifle when used for hunting purposes within 300 feet of a permanently occupied dwelling without permission of the owner or occupant, or from the owner of the land on which the hunter is situated. A firearm may not be discharged within 300 feet of any commercial, educational or medical building, or outdoor public gathering place.
- It is unlawful to discharge a firearm, air rifle, bow and arrow, or crossbow and bolt within 15 feet of the traveled portion of, or across any class I through V highway (basically any paved road).
- All tree stands must be temporary and their construction and use must conform to rules specified by the Conservation Commission, which may be found on the Town web site.
- Bow hunters must obtain a special Bow Hunting permit from the Atkinson Board of Selectmen before hunting on any Town land or Town Forest.

39 Q: Who is in charge of setting Hunting Regulations on the Town lands?  
40 A: The Selectmen are in charge of recreational land and undesignated Town land. The Conservation  
41 Commission is in charge of Town Forests and other Conservation parcels. Either one may close hunting  
42 access to any Town parcel under its jurisdiction in case of hunting abuse. For instance, if we verify  
43 complaints about hunters discharging firearms within 300' of a resident's house, we will close that area  
44 to hunting.

45 Q: Will these Town-owned parcels always be available for hunting?  
46 A: We may close parcels temporarily due to trail maintenance or forestry, in which case we will post  
47 official "CLOSED, NO HUNTING" signs at the entrances. We try not to schedule such work during hunting  
48 season, but some game (eg. coyotes) are always in season.

49 Q: I am not sure of the exact boundaries of a Town Forest. Where can I get more  
50 information?  
51 A: Consult the Town Tax Maps at the Selectmen's or Planning Office. As the hunter, it is your  
52 responsibility to know the terrain and not hunt on neighboring land where you do not have permission.  
53 These maps are also on the Town's website [www.town-atkinsonnh.com](http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com) under Tax/Assessor.

54 Q: Is hunting on Atkinson Town land restricted to Atkinson residents?  
55 A: No. Many of our Town lands were acquired with federal grants which do not allow restricting access  
56 to residents only.

57

## 58 Bow Hunting FAQs

59 Q: Is there any charge for an Atkinson Bow Hunting Permit?  
60 A: No. New Hampshire law exempts landowners who allow recreational use of their land from liability,  
61 providing they do not charge a fee to use the land. This applies to towns as well as individuals.

62 Q: What are the requirements for an Atkinson Bow Hunting Permit?  
63 A: You will need to show your Driver's License or other ID and a current year NH Fish and Game Archery  
64 or Crossbow License.

65 Q: Why do I need to have a Fish and Game License?  
66 A: The NH Fish and Game Archery and Crossbow Licenses require that you have completed a Hunter  
67 Archery Safety Course, which certifies to the Town that you are a safe archer who knows the rules.

68 Q: Is there an age requirement for the Bow Hunting Permit?  
69 A: No. The only requirement is to have a valid NH State Archery or Crossbow License.

70 Q: Where do I get the Atkinson Bow Hunting Permit?  
71 A: At the Atkinson Selectmen's Office, during normal business hours.

72 Q: How long is the Bow Hunting Permit good for?  
73 A: From the date of issue until the end of the calendar year.

- 74 Q: What can I hunt with an Atkinson Bow Hunting Permit?
- 75 A: You must still follow all NH Fish and Game hunting rules and seasons. The permit does not restrict you
- 76 to deer only. You may hunt anything Fish and Game says you can legally hunt with a NH Archery or
- 77 Crossbow License.
- 78 Q: I have a Bow Permit and want to hunt on a Town parcel but it is posted “No Hunting”.
- 79 May I still hunt there?
- 80 A: Yes. NH law allows a landowner to post their land against hunting but still allow access by permission.
- 81 You should carry your Atkinson Bow Hunting Permit, NH Hunting License, and ID with you while hunting
- 82 and be prepared to show them on demand to Fish and Game or Police officials. The permit is your
- 83 written permission from the town to hunt regardless of whether the land is posted.

**TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**19 Academy Avenue**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811**

**Policy on use of Blinds or Tree Stands in Town Forests**  
**Approved April 2, 2018**  
***Amended September 23, 2020***

For the purposes of public safety, proper forest management, and woodland aesthetics, it is the policy of the Atkinson Conservation Commission to prohibit the use of blinds at ground level or below ground (pit blinds) constructed partly or wholly of manufactured material for hunting, observation, or photography of wildlife in Town Forests. This policy does not prohibit the use of camouflage garments, nor the use of temporary ground-level blinds constructed of dead natural materials found in the vicinity of the blind.

*In the interest of public safety, tree stands are allowed on the town's conservation lands as long as they conform to the following rules:*

- *Consistent with NH Fish and Game policy, tree stands must not damage the tree in any way, and must have the name and phone number of the stand's owner visible at ground level.*
- *On Atkinson conservation land, tree stands must not be installed prior to September 1, must be removed by December 31, and must not be within 300 feet of a blazed trail.*

Exception to this policy requires specific (when, where, purpose, duration, type of construction) written approval of the Commission.

Atkinson NH Archery Permit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- NH Archery license # \_\_\_\_\_
- NH Crossbow license # \_\_\_\_\_
- NH Hunting license reviewed
- ID reviewed

To Whom It May Concern:

This permit entitles \_\_\_\_\_, holding a valid, current year NH Fish and Game Archery and/or Crossbow License to bow hunt on the Atkinson Town Lands currently open to hunting as determined by the list maintained at the Selectmen's Office. This permit may not be copied and is valid only with the raised notary seal below. This permit expires on December 31 of the year of issue.

Atkinson Selectmen's Office  
Atkinson Conservation Commission

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

In ATKINSON, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, a Notary Public in and for the above state and county, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, known to me or proved to be the person named above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

# BOW HUNTING ONLY

Pursuant to Atkinson Town Meeting warrants 2000-31 and 2013-6, **only bow hunting** is allowed in this Town Forest.

This applies to all species and all seasons.

A **bow hunting permit** is required from the Atkinson Selectmen's office, and you must carry this with you while hunting.

All NH Fish & Game regulations must also be followed.

Violators of this policy may be charged with Criminal Trespass pursuant to NH RSA 635:2.

## **Paul Wainwright**

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**From:** <arianna.s@rockinghamccd.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:51 AM  
**To:** "Paul" <paul@paulwainwrightphotography.com>  
**Cc:** "Tracy Degnan" <tracy@rockinghamccd.org>  
**Attach:** Revised Atkinson Map Option 1 2021.pdf; Revised Atkinson Map Option 2 2021.pdf  
**Subject:** Atkinson Sawyer

Hi Paul,

I conducted a thorough site walk with the intent of flagging the moderate invasive zone and a couple of things came up that I wanted to discuss with you.

First, when I arrived at Sawyer Forest, I walked the trail until I met a stonewall that cuts perpendicular across the trail. I followed the stonewall in a southeasterly direction to get to the southeastern most edge of the "moderate zone" Until now, I had not done a ton of walking beyond the mapped moderate zone and I have to say I saw a large amount of bittersweet in areas just beyond our mapped zone up to the stonewall. This included bittersweet vines climbing trees as well as bittersweet, barberry and multiflora on the ground. Based on what I saw I would recommend that treatment extend beyond the previously mapped "moderate zone" to at least meet up with the interior stonewall.

Second, while I was reviewing the site, I noted more standing water within the currently mapped "moderate zone" than I had hoped for (we cannot treat in standing water). It is a possibility that it may dry up, however with the weather we've been having its a little unclear.

Third, The mowed area has exploded with vegetation! (mostly invasive)

Given these three factors I would like to consider revising our current treatment area for 2021. I would propose that we target the mowed area and areas directly adjacent to the mowing to push back the invasives and help prevent invasive re-seeding. The mowed area, which would also include invasives along the trail edge adjacent to the mowing and forest edges along the mowing, would come out to be 5 acres +/- . For the remaining two acres we have a couple of options: We can either treat the field abutting the mowed area and a small portion of the forested interior abutting/within the moderate zone (See attached map option 1) or we can leave out the field and treat a larger two acre section of forested interior adjacent to the mowed area (See attached map option 2). In these maps I have extended the potential forested treatment area up to the interior stonewall. I wanted to consider treatment in the field because it will be used for access in the future as well as it appears to be a great site for pollinators and I hate seeing native vegetation, especially milkweed being engulfed by bittersweet.

Given the high density of invasive plants in some of these proposed



revised treatment areas I would like to wait until we complete a foliar application to determine whether or not it would be in the budget to include a cut stump application later in the fall.

Unfortunately the weather just does not seem to be on our side this year and we have had to make alterations to a lot of our other projects as well.

Let me know what you think!

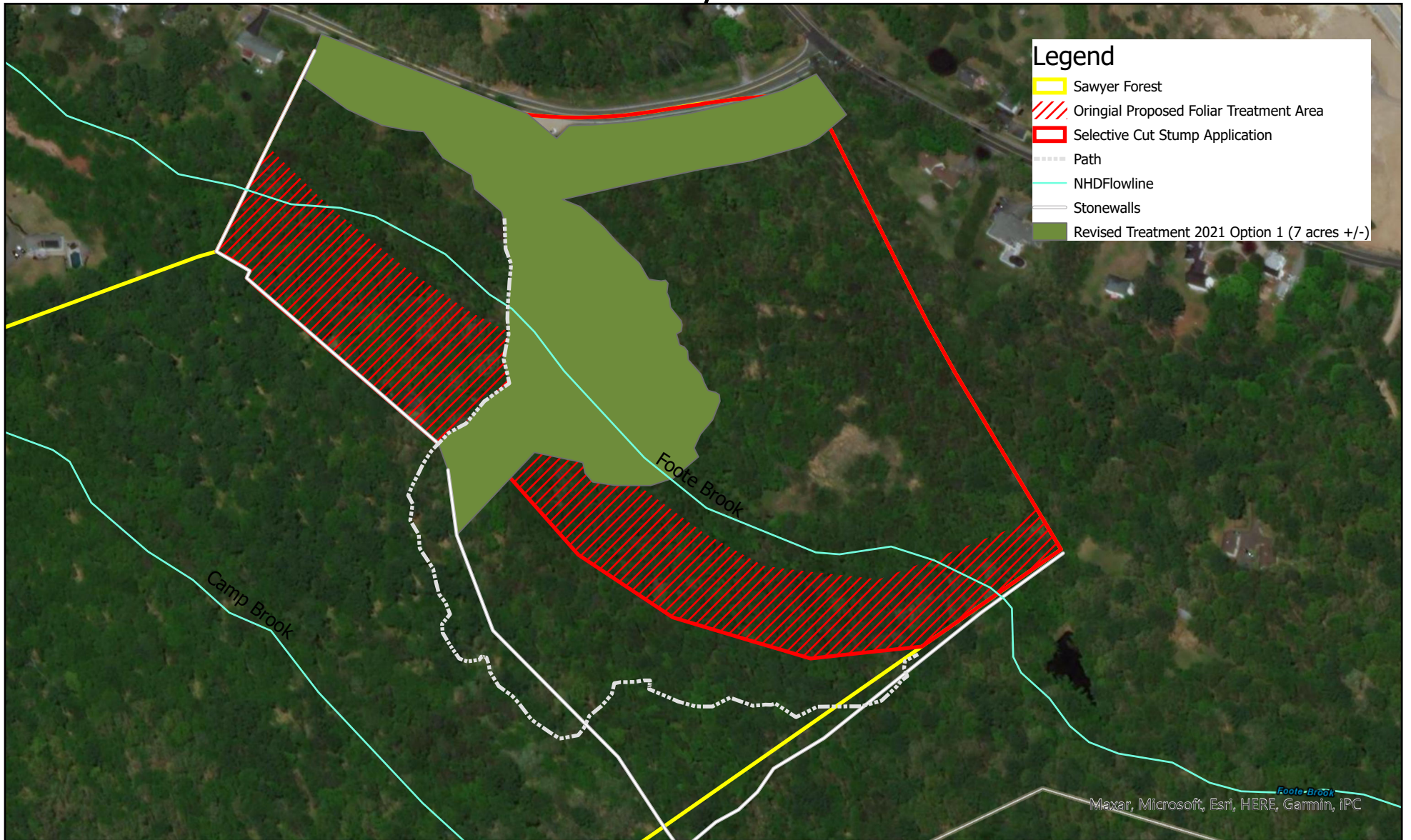
Speaking of weather, this week is off to a rainy/hot start. I will let you know when we plan on starting but as of right now it looks like potentially Friday or early next week.

Thanks,  
Arianna

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Arianna Spear  
Conservation and Stewardship Manager  
Rockingham County Conservation District  
110 North Road  
Brentwood NH, 03833  
603-679-2790

# REVISED Sawyer Forest- Atkinson NH



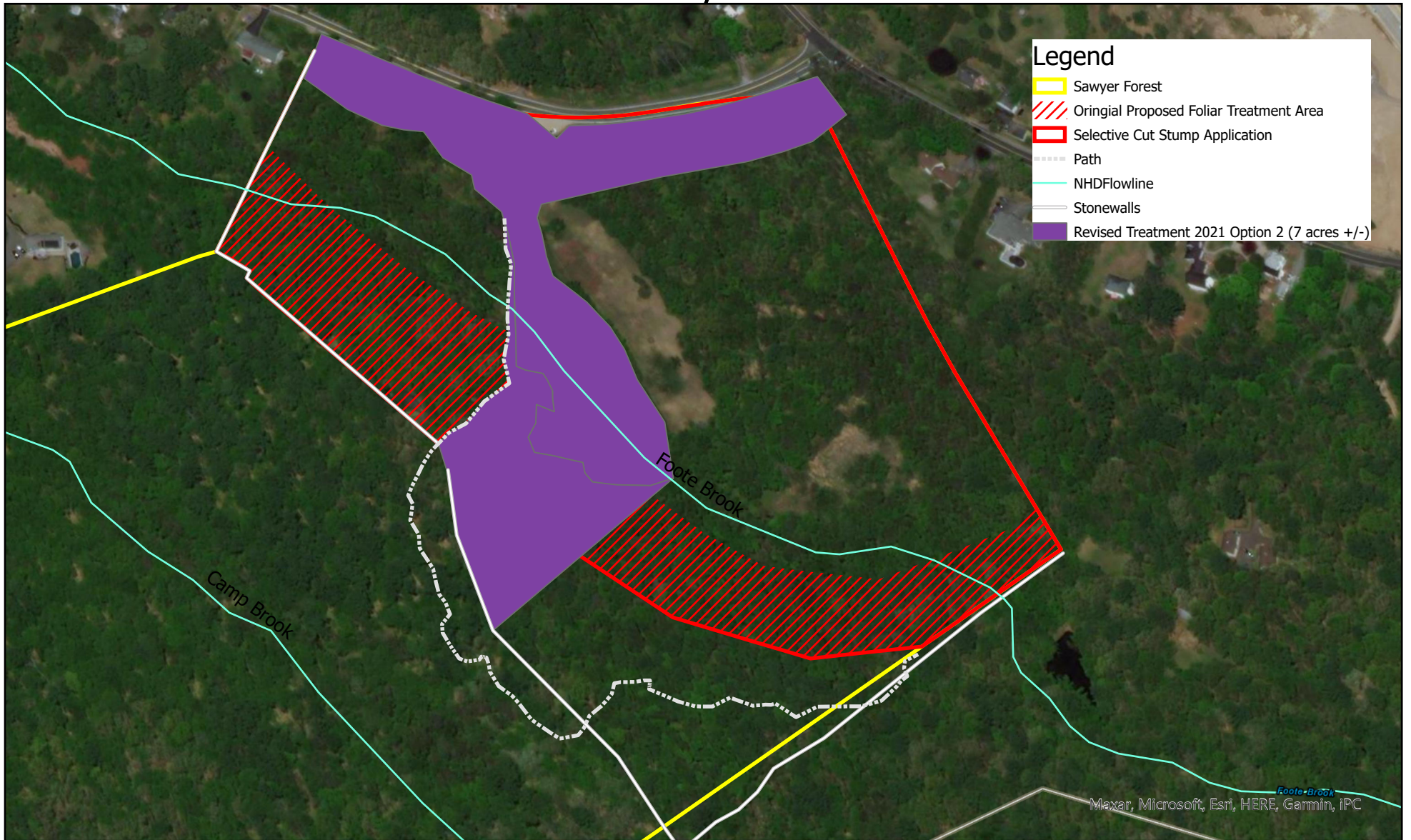
Treatment Area:

5 acres +/- Mowed area/adjacent invasive edges  
2 acres +/- Field and Portion of Moderate Invasive Zone





# REVISED Sawyer Forest- Atkinson NH



0 105 210 420 Feet



Treatment Area:

5 acres +/- Mowed area/adjacent invasive edges  
2 acres +/- Portion of Moderate Invasive Zone

Map compiled by the RCCD August, 2021

Maxar, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC

**TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**19 Academy Avenue**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Town of Atkinson, New Hampshire**

The Atkinson Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 7:30 PM in Atkinson Town Hall, 19 Academy Avenue, Atkinson, New Hampshire, pursuant to **NH RSA 36-A:5, II**, to consider expending funds from the Atkinson Conservation Fund pursuant to **RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b)** to facilitate the establishment of a conservation easement to be held by the Southeast Land Trust on a 37.3 +/- acre portion of the 39.6 +/- acre parcel shown on Atkinson tax map 11 lot 20-1. In preparation for this hearing, a site walk of this property will be conducted by the Conservation Commission and Southeast Land Trust on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 9:00 AM, at vacant land between #5 and #7 Deer Run Road, Atkinson, and the public is invited to attend.

Atkinson Conservation Commission  
Paul Wainwright, Chair  
September 1, 2021