

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, December 9, 2019**  
**Atkinson Town Hall**

Approved January 6, 2020

**Members Present:**

Paul Wainwright, Chair  
Denise Legault, Vice Chair  
Pete McVay  
Dan Kimball  
Dennis Krause (arrived late)  
Bill Steele (Alternate, voting)

**Others Present:**

Barbara Brown

**1) Call to Order & Attendance:**

Chair Wainwright called the meeting to order at 7:00PM on Monday, December 9, 2019. Chair Wainwright reviewed the attendance list and declared that a quorum was present.

**2) Review & Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, as written.

**Member McVay made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Vice Chair Legault seconded the motion. Five members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the November 4, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0. (Member Krause had not yet arrived.)**

**3) Treasurer's Report:**

Chair Wainwright presented the latest Treasurer's Report. A copy is attached. Invoices submitted for the past month are highlighted in yellow. Chair Wainwright stated that the Commission is very close to having a balanced budget. Chair Wainwright stated that Charlie Moreno's invoice for Phase Two of the mitigation of invasive plants on Sawyer was less than expected. Chair Wainwright then stated that once he's seen the work hours for the recording clerk, he may allocate funds towards the hedge trimmer & critter camera that he purchased earlier in the year for the Commission.

**4) Invasive Plant Mitigation on the Sawyer Town forest**

a) Cost estimates, and Forest Maintenance Fund warrant article

Chair Wainwright stated that he obtained a cost estimate from the Rockingham County Conservation District which recommended a low-volume, plant-specific

herbicide spraying in July through September, together with a cut and herbicide stump treatment in October or November to aid in mitigating the invasive plant species. This cost estimate came in at \$9,500 to treat the yellow buffer area on the Bonin (west) side of the Sawyer Town Forest. Treating the yellow buffer area on the 4H (east) side of the Sawyer Town Forest would be a separate phase costing an additional \$9,500, for a grand total of \$19,000.00 to complete the treatment in these two areas of the Sawyer Town Forest.

RCCD currently does not recommend treating the 100-foot yellow buffer area along the residential properties on the north since it would be difficult to get to, and because the property boundaries would need to be surveyed and flagged first.

Chair Wainwright stated that he thinks this is an awful lot of money, but Member Kimball stated how much work this project would entail. Member Kimball stated that this estimate seems to be in line with similar projects he's been aware of.

Chair Wainwright read the following proposed warrant article to gather feedback from the Commission on its wording.

*Warrant Article 2020-XXXX : To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$19,000.00 to hire one or more qualified professional contractors to control invasive plants in the Sawyer Town forest, with said funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, the work to be performed under the supervision and control of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. As of December 31, 2019, the balance in that fund was \$XX,XXX.XX. Majority vote required.*

Vice Chair Legault stated that the warrant article seems too general and not specific enough, to which Chair Wainwright stated that it is just a general funding article, not a specific proposal for how to perform the work or who to hire. Member McVay stated that the article sounded fine the way it is written. Chair Wainwright requested a motion to submit the proposed warrant article.

**Member McVay made a motion to submit the warrant article to secure funding for the Sawyer Town Forest invasive plant mitigation project. Member Kimball seconded the motion. Five members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0. (Member Krause had not yet arrived.)**

b) Glyphosate Safety – Denise

Chair Wainwright recused himself and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Legault in order to avoid dominating the conversation about utilizing Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) to mitigate the invasive plants in the Sawyer Town Forest.

Vice Chair Legault stated that her research was somewhat inconclusive, and stated her belief that Monsanto funded the studies surrounding the use of Glyphosate, which would be a conflict of interest for Monsanto. Vice Chair Legault furnished a

copy of the Berkshire Edge web site from Monday, November 25, 2019, which contained an article entitled "Wetlands Expert Urges Ban on Use of Roundup Weed Killer." Vice Chair Legault read a few key passages from the article illustrating the potential hazards with using Roundup weed killer. Vice Chair Legault stated that, although she cannot readily prevent residents from using this product on their own lands, she does not endorse the Commission's use of Roundup.

*Member Krause joined the meeting at 7:25PM.*

Member Kimball reminded Vice Chair Legault that the Commission's plan was not to use Roundup specifically but to use Glyphosate, and stated his opinion that there were other chemicals in Roundup that may be causing the problems. Member Kimball continued that this product would not be used on crops destined for human consumption, but on troublesome invasive species that could potentially cause more harm than any herbicide if they are not properly dealt with. Member Kimball stated, finally, that he would be in favor of using Glyphosate to mitigate the invasive species in town.

Member Steele stated that if the Town decides to use Glyphosate, it may be worth treating a small section of the forest with another method to compare results and see if other safer methods could be used in the future.

Chair Wainwright rejoined the meeting. He stated that this topic will be on the agenda moving forward, and indicated that there is much more discussion to be had before a decision is made. Chair Wainwright asked the commission members to try to differentiate between opinions and facts when considering this issue.

#### **5) Other Warrant Articles – additions to the Orr and Chadwick Town Forests**

Chair Wainwright stated that he has been considering two additional warrant articles whose goal would be to add additional land to our existing Town Forests.

Chair Wainwright showed the tax map of the Orr Town Forest, together with the survey from when the town purchased the land in 1991. According to the survey, the land in question is already a part of the Orr Town Forest. However, the tax map shows this land as two parcels, and the warrant article designating this as a Town Forest only mentions one of the parcels. Chair Wainwright suggested tabling this discussion until the tax maps are updated, which would probably resolve this issue. A copy of the tax map illustrating this discussion is attached to these minutes.

Chair Wainwright also brought up the land behind the Woodlock Recreation Park that is part of the Chadwick Town Forest. In addition to Map 12 Lot 2, there are several other backland parcels that are owned by the town but are not part of the Town Forest. Chair Wainwright stated that this land is not currently listed as conservation land in any of the deeds or other documents. Chair Wainwright then brought up the Atkinson Building Needs Committee and their plans to sell off Town lands to obtain funding for other projects. Chair Wainwright voiced his concerns about losing town lands of high natural

resource value if they are not listed appropriately as conservation lands. Chair Wainwright stated, finally, that including these parcels in the Chadwick Town Forest will be postponed until the town can address whether these parcels should be conservation land. A copy of the tax map illustrating this discussion is attached to these minutes.

## **6) Trails and Grants Working Group Report:**

- Merrill Drive trail clearing – DONE – Thanks Dennis!

Chair Wainwright thanked Member Krause and asked how many people helped him clear this trailhead, to which Member Krause stated it was just one friend. Member Krause stated that although it was raining that day, the cleanup effort wasn't too difficult and he was happy to complete the work for the town.

- Printable Trail Maps – Pete & Dennis

Chair Wainwright asked the Commission how this project was coming along. Member Krause stated that the designs have been finalized and he showed final proofs for the Woodlock Trails to the members of the Commission. Member Krause stated that if the Commission agrees to the design & the format, he is ready to have copies printed for distribution. Chair Wainwright thanked Member Krause & Member McVay for their hard work on this project.

- Eagle Scout Projects - Bill

Chair Wainwright asked for an update on these potential projects. Member Steele stated that Boy Scout Eddie Comeau is interested in doing some work in the Sawyer Town Forest, possibly repairing or replacing bridges that are aging and in disrepair. Member Steele stated that Eddie is being very proactive and should have plenty of time to complete this project before his eighteenth birthday.

## **7) Brief Reports & Other Business:**

- a) Hunting – FB “chatter”

Chair Wainwright stated that there has been quite a bit of hunting discussion (both for & against) recently on the town's conservation Facebook group. Chair Wainwright stated that by deed some of the Town Forests must allow hunting, but he is unsure which portions of which lands this applies to. Chair Wainwright stated that the town needs a consistent policy surrounding where hunting is allowed and where it is prohibited. Chair Wainwright stated, finally, that this discussion will be continued when Member Kukshel is present due to his wealth of historical knowledge on this topic.

- b) Land Conservation Plan – Moose Plate notification by 12/6

Chair Wainwright stated that this grant was approved and now the difficult work must begin, including the set of tasks listed in the grant proposal and the plan outline at

the back of the grant proposal. Chair Wainwright stated that although not much discussion needs to be had at this meeting, these items will be the script for work to be done over the next year and a half towards this effort. These tasks include:

- (1) Writing the first 4 chapters of the plan
- (2) Working with Avitar to update and add new layers on the Town's tax maps
- (3) Thinking about "What are the attributes that are important to Atkinson to protect?"
- (4) Taking the output of Task 3 and analyzing what parts of Town have those important attributes
- (5) Wrapping up the project by identifying sources of funding, drawing conclusions and making recommendations

- c) January 18, 2020 – Wildlife Tracking – Emma Tutein, UNH Coop. Ext.

Ms. Tutein will join the Commission on the Woodlock Trails in the Chadwick Town Forest to help residents learn how to identify & track different types of wildlife.

- d) 3rd Saturday "office hours" December 21 at 10:00AM – need a volunteer

Chair Wainwright asked the Commission for a volunteer to accompany him during these office hours, and Member Kimball volunteered.

- e) Spring tree give-away – update? – Scott

This discussion will be tabled until the next meeting since Member Kukshel is not in attendance this evening.

- f) Foley property line – update? – Denise

Vice Chair Legault did not have any updates on this topic and asked Chair Wainwright to remove it from the agenda until she hears anything new.

- g) ATVs on Marshall Land – use critter camera? – Tim

This topic will also be removed from the agenda since no progress has been made.

- h) "Landscape Buffer" zoning – PB considering modifications – Wed 12/4

Chair Wainwright stated that he attended the last Atkinson Planning Board meeting and stated that he had no objections to the discussion of the Landscape Buffer zoning changes. Chair Wainwright then stated that he also paid attention to the assisted living zoning discussion which he thought was interesting but doesn't think it should apply to just one zone.

- i) Conservation Easement Training – Wed 12/4 – need a volunteer

Chair Wainwright stated that Barbara Richter (Chair of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions) gave a talk about how to read and write conservation easements. Chair Wainwright then stated that this is something that the town should get better at.

j) Barry Conservation Camp – Boy Scouts have interest? – Bill

Chair Wainwright asked Member Steele for an update to which Member Steele stated he is still working on gauging interest from the Boy Scouts and should have a better idea at the next meeting.

k) Adam Torres' Court of Honor – January 11, 2020, at 11:00 AM

Chair Wainwright stated that Adam Torres, whose Eagle Scout project was to repair the Town's canoe launch, will be having his Court of Honor at the Atkinson Community Center on January 11 at 11:00 AM. Chair Wainwright stated that he'll be in attendance since he's never been to a Court of Honor.

l) Better ways to publicize things

Chair Wainwright voiced his frustration when organizing events and receiving low attendance, and asked the Commission for better ways to get the word out to draw in residents. Member Steele mentioned the bulletin board at the Kimball Library that is a great resource for events happening in town. Chair Wainwright stated that his office hours are posted on the Library's virtual bulletin board but he is unsure how many people look at that. Member Krause mentioned the Atkinson Cable TV channel which posts upcoming events. Chair Wainwright stated that he's spoken to the David Williams to start posting the Commission's events. Chair Wainwright also stated that he'll speak to the Town Administrator to have the Commission's events added to the Selectmen's "Future Agenda" portion of their meeting.

**8) Next Meetings:**

The next two regular Conservation Commission meetings will be Mondays January 6 and February 3, 2020 at 7:00PM.

**9) Save the Date: NH ACC Annual Conference: Saturday, November 7, 2020**

**10) Adjournment:**

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to adjourn.

**Member McVay made a motion to adjourn the December 9, 2019 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Member Krause seconded the motion. Six members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 6/0/0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

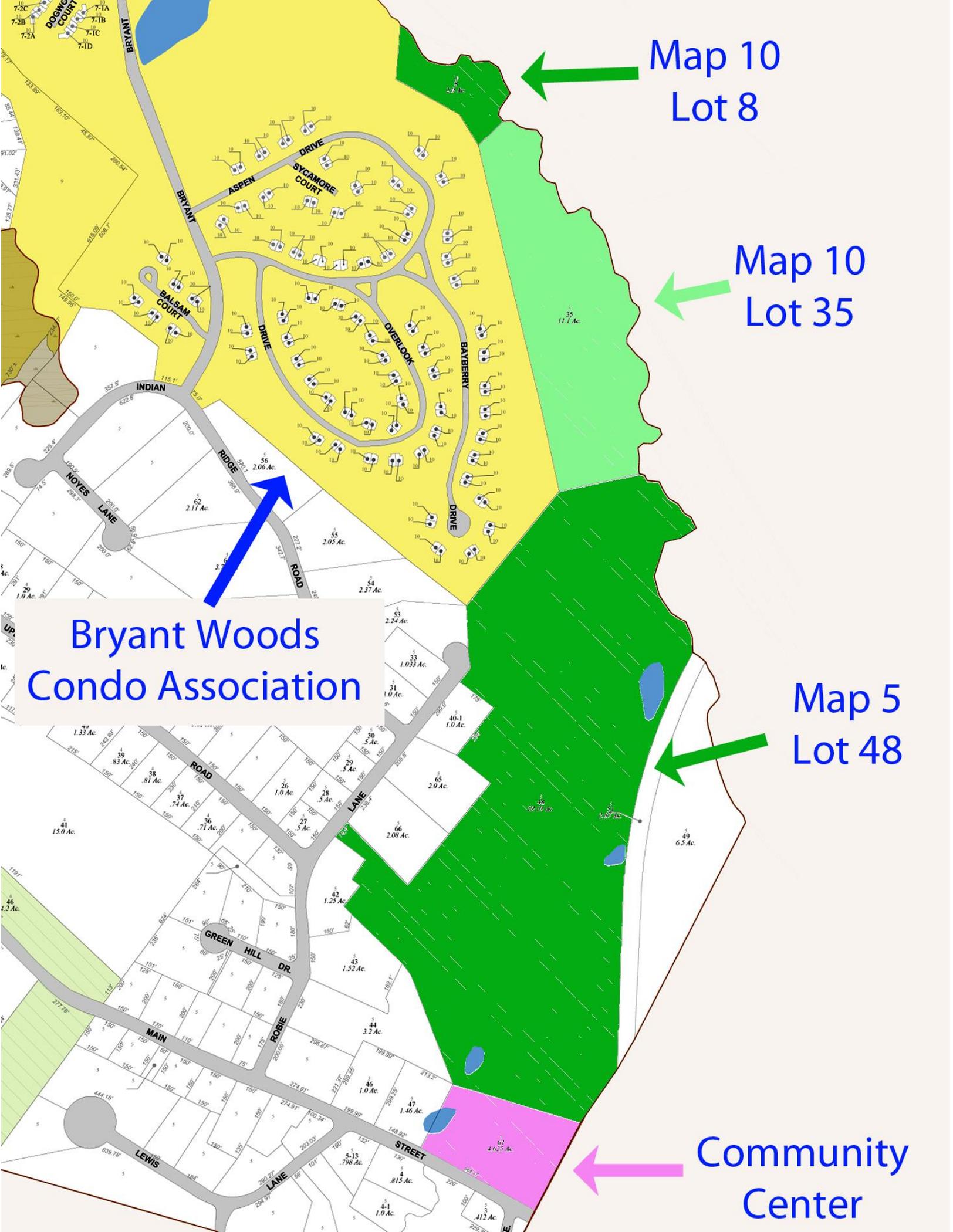
Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

**Attachments:**

- a) Treasurer's Report
- b) Tax map showing the Orr Town Forest parcels
- c) Tax map showing the Chadwick Town Forest and neighboring parcels





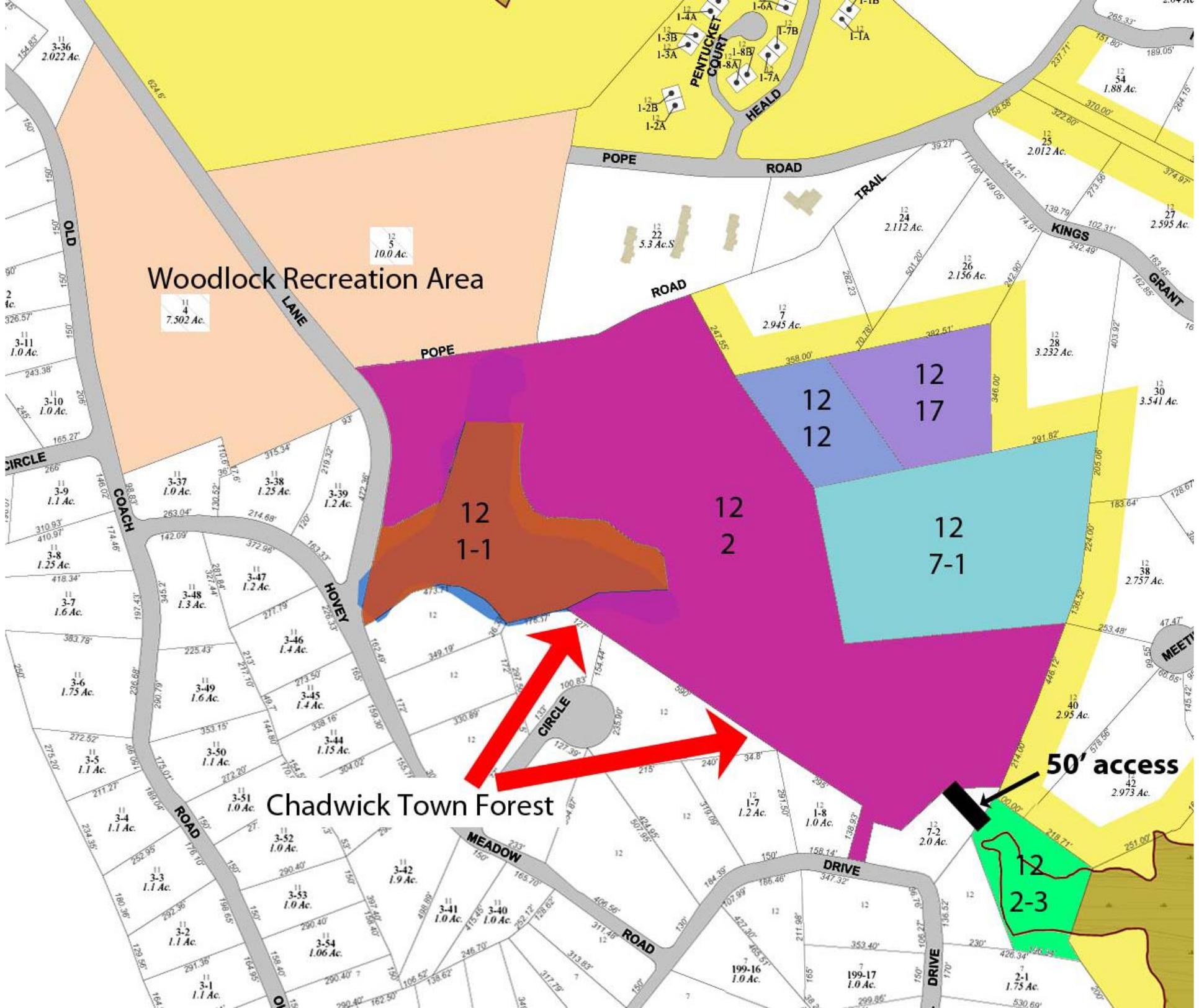
Map 10  
Lot 8

Map 10  
Lot 35

Bryant Woods  
Condo Association

Map 5  
Lot 48

Community  
Center



Woodlock Recreation Area

Chadwick Town Forest

50' access

11 4  
7.502 Ac.

12 5  
10.0 Ac.

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PENTUCKET COURT  
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