

Town Article 4 – Zoning Amendment 3: Shoreland Protection Area Boundaries

This article changes setbacks from 25 feet to 100 feet in the Shoreland Protection Area within the Zone G Conservation District for areas defined as 'priority wetlands'. These 'priority wetlands' were identified in the “Wetland Mapping and Evaluation Final Report - August 2020,” (1).

A two-thirds majority is required for passage as a Zoning Ordinance Protest Petition has been filed per RSA 675:5. (2)(3)(4)

A **YES vote** expands the area within the Shoreland Protection Area from 25 feet to 100 feet for priority wetlands.

A **NO vote** leaves the Shoreland Protection Area as currently defined.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Support increased protection of wetlands that can impact the quality of the Town’s drinking water. (5)
- Have concerns regarding the quality of the Town’s drinking water for the future. (6)
- Support the protection of drinking water as identified as a number two priority in the 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use (page 51). (7)
- To further protect fish and wildlife habitats, store floodwaters, and maintain surface water flow during dry periods. (10)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Believe that increasing the setback to 100 feet is too much.
- Want to consider other options for protecting water sources before amending this zoning ordinance. (3)(9)
- Don’t agree with the results or methodology of the “Wetland Mapping and Evaluation Final Report - August 2020.” (1)(8)
- Process for seeking variances for new zoning is not yet determined. (9)

References:

1. Wetland Mapping and Evaluation Final Report - August 2020 - Conservation Commission Website: tinyurl.com/y2jk5b92
2. RSA 675:5 Zoning Ordinance Protest Petition. This RSA explains that a favorable vote of 2/3 is required when a zoning change is protested by 20% of specified property owners.
3. Citizen presentation at Board of Selectmen meeting, 1/11/21: tinyurl.com/1e0nlthc
4. “Protest Petition Informational Documents,” PowerPoint: tinyurl.com/yxoqzow8
5. “Wetlands and Water Quality: How Wetlands Contribute to Water Quality; Raymond Wetlands Evaluation Proposed Amendments to Zoning” Raymond Conservation Commission. tinyurl.com/y5zxfbd6
6. Wetlands and Water Quality - Purdue University Cooperative Extension: tinyurl.com/y5hbh4ew
7. 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use, section IV page 51: tinyurl.com/y6cdn8v7
8. Wetland Zoning infographic and Residential Mapping, “Raymond Rights” website: tinyurl.com/545xrunn
9. Discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/6/21: tinyurl.com/4txd2abh

10. Wetland Protection and Restoration, US Environmental Protection Agency:
tinyurl.com/2cj8sq8n