

Town Article 5 – Zoning Amendment 4: Increase Wetland Setbacks in Conservation District

This article changes the area and dimensional requirements for wetland setbacks from 25 feet to 100 feet for priority wetlands, and from 25 feet to 75 feet for all other wetlands. It also moves the information on the wetland setbacks to a new section.

A two-thirds majority is required for passage as a Zoning Ordinance Protest Petition has been filed per RSA 675:5. (1)(2)(3)

A **YES vote** changes the setbacks to either 75 feet or to 100 feet for specified, priority wetlands.

A **NO vote** leaves the wetland setback as is at 25 feet.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Support increased protection of wetlands to protect water quality. (4)
- Have concerns regarding the quality of the Town’s drinking water and groundwater for the future. (5)
- Support the protection of drinking water and wetlands as identified as a number two and three priority in the 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use (page 51). (6)
- 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 the 75 foot and 100 foot setback increase is too much.
- Want to consider other options for protecting water sources before amending this zoning ordinance. (2)(9)
- Disagree with the results or methodology of the “Wetland Mapping and Evaluation Final Report - August 2020.” (7)(8)
- Process for seeking variances for new zoning is not yet determined. (9)

References:

1. 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.
2. Citizen presentation at Board of Selectmen meeting, 1/11/21: [tinyurl.com/1e0nlthc](https://www.tinyurl.com/1e0nlthc)
3. “Protest Petition Informational Documents” [tinyurl.com/yxoqzow8](https://www.tinyurl.com/yxoqzow8)
4. “Wetlands and Water Quality: How Wetlands Contribute to Water Quality; Raymond Wetlands Evaluation Proposed Amendments to Zoning” Raymond Conservation Commission: [tinyurl.com/y5zxfbd6](https://www.tinyurl.com/y5zxfbd6)
5. Wetlands and Water Quality - Purdue University Cooperative Extension: [tinyurl.com/y5hbh4ew](https://www.tinyurl.com/y5hbh4ew)
6. 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use, section IV page 51: [tinyurl.com/y6cdn8v7](https://www.tinyurl.com/y6cdn8v7)
7. Wetland Mapping and Evaluation Final Report - August 2020 - Conservation Commission Website: [tinyurl.com/y2jk5b92](https://www.tinyurl.com/y2jk5b92)
8. Wetland Zoning infographic and Residential Mapping, “Raymond Rights” website: [tinyurl.com/545xrunn](https://www.tinyurl.com/545xrunn)
9. Discussion at Town Deliberative Session, discussion 2/6/21: [tinyurl.com/4txd2abh](https://www.tinyurl.com/4txd2abh)

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