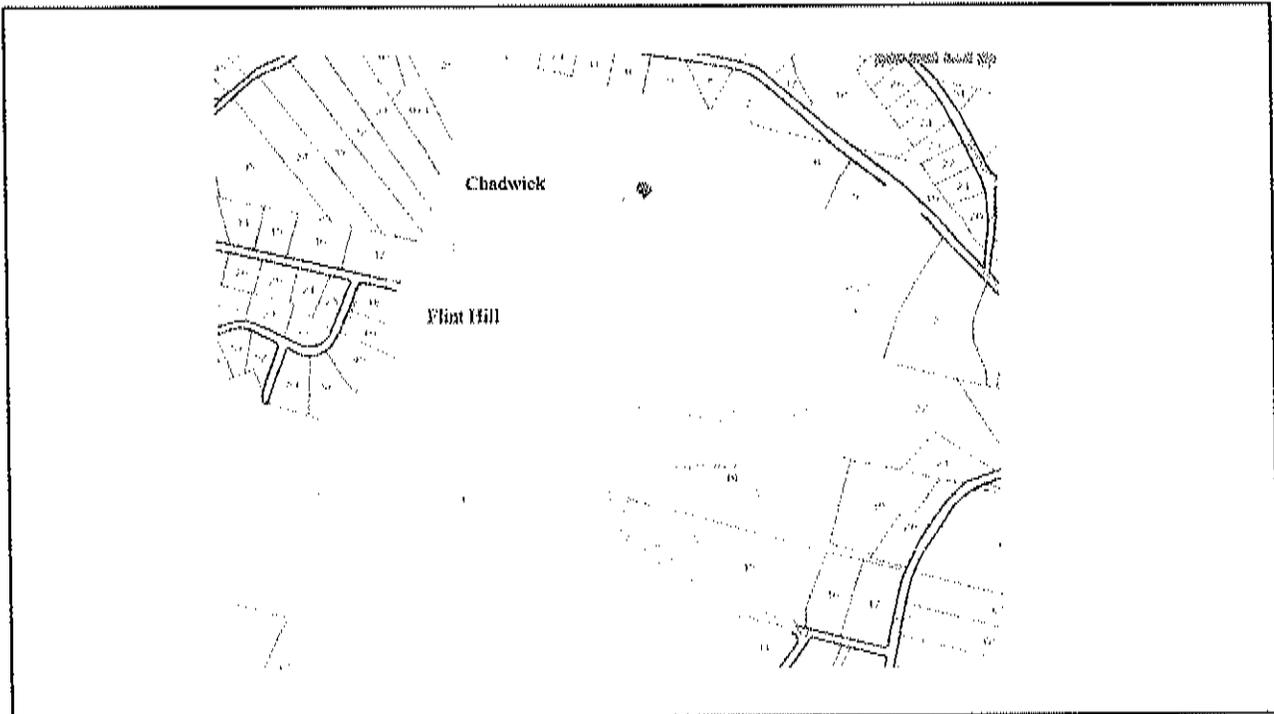


John and Elizabeth Chadwick
Tax Map 41, Lot 4

Conservation Project with
Natural Resource Conservation Service
(NRCS)

Overview

- The Chadwicks own 64 +/- acres north of the Flint Hill Conservation property, 2000' of southern property line abuts Flint Hill
- They are interested in conserving a portion of the property - 30-40 acres
- Partnering with a NRCS program, managed under the USDA
- NRCS program objective is to restore, protect, and enhance wetland and wildlife habitat
- Program consideration is determined based on accumulated points earned by property characteristics and other criteria
- Request to the town is for assistance to increase the application ranking. The property scored well but is slightly under the threshold



How the town can assist - BOS

- Partner with NRCS and the Chadwick's to increase ranking by:
 - Approval to accept ownership by donation – RSA 36-A:41
 - NRCS prefers municipalities or land trusts to own the conserved parcels due to easier long-term management. Town ownership would generate additional points.
 - The conserved parcel would be donated to the town with a conservation easement held by USDA
 - No cost for acquisition of the property by the town
 - Any legal expenses for transactions or counseling to be paid out of the Conservation Fund
 - Since the project is in the application phase, a letter with agreement to accept donation of land is all that is required at this time.

How the town can assist - ConsComm

- Partner with NRCS and the Chadwick's to increase ranking by:
 - Agree to financially contribute to the cost of restoration and management activities
 - Any financial contribution by project partners would generate additional points
 - Tree cutting to increase beaver browsing, falling trees for turtles, thin trees to create more diverse habitat are examples of management and restoration
 - The conservation commission would contribute an estimated \$7600+- towards the wetland and wildlife restoration and management costs post acquisition
 - Any management or restoration costs would be paid out of the conservation fund when the activities occur, which would be post acquisition
 - Management costs on conservation land is a routine cost that would typically be funded by the conservation fund
 - The conservation commission has already discussed and agreed to this contingent upon town ownership.
 - Since the project is in the application phase, a letter with agreement from the conservation commission to fund the management is all that is required at this time

Why is the ConsComm interested in project?

- Property abuts existing conservation land
- Existing trails that can be connected to trails on Flint Hill
- Acquisition by donation, no purchase cost
- Aligns with CC mission to protect natural resources RSA 36-A:2
- Property suitable for threatened and endangered species

How would this differ from town conserved lands

- The USDA would hold the conservation easement, no involvement from Bear-Paw as in other properties
- NRCS would be performing initial and ongoing wetland and wildlife management activities working with the conservation commission
- No stewardship fee costs

Questions ?



RAYMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

4 EPPING STREET, RAYMOND, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03077

(603) 895-7017

October 29, 2018

Brooke Smart
Natural Resource Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
273 Locust Street, Suite 2D
Dover, NH 03820

Dear Ms. Smart

This letter is in response to to John and Elizabeth Chadwick's request to partner with the Town of Raymond on their USDA Wetlands Reserve Program application.

Our understanding is that the applicant is looking to increase the application ranking to qualify for participation in the program. The town is being asked to commit in two areas on the ranking criteria document should a Wetland Reserve Easement be placed on the land, a subdivided section of Raymond Tax Map 041, Lot 4. The two areas being requested are:

Ranking document #9

Partner contributions exist that will reduce NRCS easement acquisition and/or restoration costs. 5 points for every \$1,000 contribution with a maximum of 200 points. A formal letter from the partner that indicates their level of support is required to receive ranking points. Prior to easement closing, a financial obligation in the form of a cooperative or reimbursable agreement is required to provide NRCS with the necessary financial control. *Restoration costs may include implementation expenses and/or in-kind final WRPO development by qualified professionals after APCE is signed*

Ranking document #13

Ownership will be transferred to a qualified third party (such as a state wildlife agency, land trust, etc.) after the easement has closed. Agreement must be documented in writing prior to ranking

Ranking document #9

The conservation commission's understanding is that restoration and management costs are estimated at \$7,635. The Raymond Conservation Commission unanimously voted on xxx to support the Chadwick's request and fund the management costs from the Conservation Fund, contingent on placement of the Wetland Reserve Easement and town ownership of the conserved parcel. Funds would be available post town ownership.



RAYMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Ranking document #13

The conservation commission and the board of selectmen's understanding is that the conserved parcel will be donated to the town after placement of the Wetland Reserve Easement, with the easement being held by the USDA. No purchase price or stewardship fee is being requested.

Under RSA 36-A:4 I, the conservation commission may accept donations subject to the approval of the local governing body. *Powers I. Said commission may receive gifts of money, personal property, real property, and water rights, either within or outside the boundaries of the municipality, by gift, grant, bequest, or devise, subject to the approval of the local governing body...*

The board of selectmen 10/29/18 meeting the board approved the donation to the Town of Raymond the above-mentioned conserved property, contingent upon the required state statute requirements for acquisition and mutually agreed upon conservation easement language.

Thank you,

Jan Kent

Jan Kent
Raymond Conservation Commission