



# RAYMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

4 EPPING STREET, RAYMOND, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03077

(603) 895-7017

August 19, 2021

To: Raymond Board of Selectmen

From: Raymond Conservation Commission

Re: Baiting Application – Cassier Memorial Forest – Adam Kelly

The Conservation Commission reviewed Mr. Kelly's baiting application on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. Based on much research on the pros and cons, the board unanimously voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen not approve the application.

Baiting wildlife for hunting can be beneficial for wildlife management and the permitting process does provide some oversight. However, the board found other impacts to consider.

1. The food used in baiting is not a natural food source for deer, bear and other species and can cause digestive issues. The corn can mildew and can make the animals sick. In 2015, in South Hampton NH an entire deer yard was killed due to feeding. Bait food is easier food for animals to obtain than natural food sources, and bears need natural food to prepare for hibernation.
2. Baiting is indiscriminate and bait stands can attract other wildlife in addition to the target species. Baiting draws animals of the same species closer as well as animals that don't normally feed in the same area. Drawing animals closer together can cause cross-contamination, disease spread such as: Tuberculosis, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), mailBrucellosis, Rabies, etc. and parasites. CWD is not yet known to be present in New Hampshire, however, Fish & Game does have a warning regarding feeding deer in winter due to CWD risk.
3. Baiting can create behavioral changes in animals by bringing them out of their natural home range, changing their natural feeding routes, increasing competition for food, and damaging habitat. It also has potential of creating aggressive encounters with other animals and humans. The Cassier Memorial Forest has an extensive network of trails that are regularly used. Many people walk their dogs, on and off leash. The board has



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concerns that changing the feeding patterns of animals may create some unintended consequences, animals fighting and attracting animals to cross trails where people are hiking.

4. Allowing baiting can set a precedent for residents and non-residents. Baiting may create an unfair advantage to hunters who bait versus hunters who do not bait. The bait stand locations are public information. Will the bait stands attract more hunters to that area or even curious hikers? What is the impact to local hunters by allowing non-Raymond residents to bait? Is baiting for hunting necessary to manage the wildlife on Cassier Memorial Forest? In 2020, 2482 deer were culled in Rockingham County, the second highest harvest since 2012.
5. The board inquired with some local land trusts and conservation commissions on their policies. Most conservation commissions polled have not received any requests for baiting, nor do they have a policy. Chester received one request last year, conducted research, and per the recommendation of the conservation commission, the Board of Selectmen denied the request. The Southeast Land Trust, who owns 10,000 acres and manages 23,000 acres has a global policy that discourages baiting and does not allow it on the lands that they own for many of the reasons stated above. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways who holds the conservation easement on the Cassier Memorial Forest does not have a policy on baiting.
6. A couple of items were observed on the baiting permit. On the two applications, "Exact Location" is missing. (Must include specific directions to allow a person to locate each bait station). A couple of maps were included with the application, but the exact location of the bait station was not included as required. The map that was included which shows the bait location, shows one trail on Cassier. The map that Mr. Kelly used is outdated and led him to believe that the bait station was not near any trails, which is incorrect. The bait location appears to be near an intersection of two main trails.

Please take this recommendation under consideration and advise us of your decision.

Thank you,

Raymond Conservation Commission



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## References:

<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>

[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

<https://www.wmur.com/article/12-deer-found-dead-in-south-hampton-after-being-fed-by-residents/5198718>

[www.meateater.com](http://www.meateater.com)

<https://www.hunterstruth.com>

<https://www.ckwri.tamuk.edu>

<https://www.wideopenspaces.com>

<https://seltnh.org/>

[Bear-Paw Regional Greenways](#)

Local conservation commissions – Chester, Derry, Candia, Epping, Nottingham

Enc:

[Cassier Trail Map link](#)

