

Petition for No Rafting Zone Pursuant to RSA 270:12
Ragged Island, Tuftonboro, New Hampshire (Lake Winnepesaukee)
Submitted by Lakes Region Conservation Trust (Donald S. Berry, President)

SUMMARY: This is a petition to establish a No Rafting Zone (NRZ) for an approximately 5.75 acre area on the eastern side of Ragged Island on Lake Winnepesaukee in Tuftonboro. Ragged Island is a conserved property owned by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) and additionally protected by a conservation easement held by the Town of Tuftonboro. Ragged Island is open to the public for low impact recreation, nature observation and education, and enjoyment of the property's natural and scenic qualities. Sandy beaches that are enjoyed by hundreds of people each summer are located on the east and west sides of the island. The proposed NRZ would affect an area off the beach on the east side of the island but not the area off the beach on the west side of the island.

SITE: The requested NRZ is an area of approximately 5.75 acres (calculated by GIS) off the eastern shore of Ragged Island and encompassing Little Pine Tree Island. As shown on the maps in Figure 1 and Figure 2 (attached), the NRZ would extend from the end of the breakwater at the southeast corner of Ragged Island, east-southeast to a point located 150 feet at an azimuth of 135 degrees (due southeast) from the southeast corner of Little Pine Tree Island, north to the southwest corner of Booth/Little Ragged Island and west-northwest to the easternmost point of Ragged Island.

Ragged Island and Booth/Little Ragged Islands are conservation lands owned and stewarded by LRCT for the benefit of the public and the environment, preserving important wildlife habitat, pristine scenic shoreline, and opportunities for low-impact recreation. Ragged Island is open to the public, free of charge, from sunrise to sunset and experiences thousands of visitor hours during the boating season (late spring through mid-fall). LRCT maintains two access docks (capacity approximately 8-9 boats), a restroom facility, picnic tables and benches, and a nature trail on the island to facilitate and enhance visitors' experience. LRCT has part-time seasonal staff on the island to greet and guide visitors and to ensure that the island's peaceful character is maintained for the benefit of all. Sandy beaches and shallow waters on both the east and west sides of island are inviting places for swimming by visitors. The proposed NRZ would not affect opportunities for boaters to anchor off the beach on the west side of the island.

In addition to Ragged Island being conserved by LRCT, the Town of Tuftonboro holds a Conservation Easement on the island. The purposes of this conservation easement are:

1. The preservation of the Property, including the shoreline of Lake Winnepesaukee on which the Property fronts, predominantly in its natural, scenic, and open condition for the scenic enjoyment of the general public;
2. The protection of the woodlands, shoreline, and wetlands of the Property, and adjacent waters of Lake Winnepesaukee, to protect natural habitat of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and of other species of native flora and fauna;
3. The preservation of water quality on the Property and the water quality of Lake Winnepesaukee, on which the Property fronts;
4. The preservation of the Property and the preservation of Lake Winnepesaukee on which the Property fronts, for environmental education, including but not limited to the observation, enjoyment, and study of natural resources on the Property;
5. The preservation of the Property and the preservation of Lake Winnepesaukee on which the Property fronts, for outdoor low-impact, non-motorized/non-mechanized recreational activities by the general public that are compatible with and not destructive of the conservation values or interests of the Property; and

6. The prevention of any use of the Property that will significantly impair or interfere with conservation values or interests of the Property.

The following description of activities and impacts of rafting directly impairs each of these Purposes of the Conservation Easement. The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission unanimously approved a motion to support the proposed No Rafting Zone in their April 18, 2022 meeting in order to support the purposes and terms of the Conservation Easement. The Tuftonboro Board of Selectman subsequently approved a motion that the Town support the proposed No Rafting Zone in their April 25, 2022 meeting and have issued a Letter of Support (attached).

Little Pine Tree Island, off the eastern shore of Ragged Island, is privately owned by the Harris family who has lived there for several generations. The area between Ragged Island and Little Pine Island is well protected and had remained relatively serene until recent years.

RAFTING: In recent years, rafting in the area of the proposed NRZ has increased to an average of 30-40 boats on good weather days. In 2022, the exponential growth of rafting has increased to an average of 65-75 boats at the same time in this area alone (not including anchoring off other areas of the island) on weekends. During these heavy use periods, many boats raft together and rafts occur in very close proximity, often only a few feet apart. It is common for these rafts to be present for many hours at a time if not most of the day. These occurrences have been photo documented. Boats have also anchored and rafted in the area between and around the two LRCT docks, impeding access to the docks and safe navigation through this area.

SAFETY: The passage between Ragged Island and Little Pine Tree Island is very narrow, with the shortest distance between them being only 147 feet. The area of the proposed NRZ between Ragged, Little Pine Tree and Booth/Little Ragged Islands is largely shallow and sandy with areas of hazardous rocks and rock reefs. Swimmers and waders from Ragged Island's Sunrise (eastern) Beach and from rafting boats are at risk from passing boats and personal watercrafts (PWCs) trying to navigate these obstacles. Boats and PWCs are at risk of striking shallow rocks while avoiding anchored vessels and swimmers. There is an underwater power cable between Ragged and Little Pine Tree Islands that is repeatedly hooked and dragged by the anchors of rafting boats (photo documented), putting the cable at risk of damage or breakage (property damage) and is a clear safety hazard to anyone in nearby water.

MAINTENANCE OF VALUES: The intensive rafting impairs the easterly views from Ragged Island, the northerly views from Little Pine Tree Island, and the scenic value of the eastern shore of Ragged Island. Loud music by many boats in close proximity trying to "out compete" their surroundings is typically heard from great distances away. Indecorous behaviors including inappropriate language (loud aggressive language and swearing), excessive alcohol use and blatant use of controlled substances are typically observed, often when children are present. These behaviors are unavoidably observed (seen, heard and smelled) from Ragged Island, completely changing (negatively) the experience of visitors to the island, and are inescapable by the residents of Little Pine Tree Island. Many reports have been received by LRCT of aggressive and rude behavior from rafting boats toward our staff, volunteers, visitors and neighbors when making observations of the aforementioned behaviors. This shallow and protected area of the proposed NRZ is an excellent area for paddle craft to access the island, whereas the docks are too high for kayaks/canoes to utilize; however, this access is now blocked to paddle craft by rafting boats during high use periods.

USES OF WATER BODY: The proposed NRZ is a North/South passageway for motor boats, PWCs, canoes and kayaks, and is used for accessing Ragged Island's docks. This area has also been popular for snorkeling/diving and fishing. Sunrise Beach is a favorite spot of families visiting the island for swimming, wading, and paddling.

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THREATENED SPECIES: Ragged Island, its shoreline and surrounding area, is important habitat for the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). The island has a long history of a productive nesting site on its northeast shore. The increased boat traffic along this shoreline from boats coming/going to this rafting site that is exploding in use, and the associated increase of wave action on the shore and impairments to local water quality, have high potential to negatively impact the nesting success of this threatened species. Additionally, dogs from anchored boats let loose onto the island can easily disturb the island wildlife, particularly ground/shore nesting birds.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED: Hundreds of people each summer utilize the public access that LRCT provides for the respectful and responsible use of Ragged Island. The proposed NRZ would return the availability of protected shallow water for non-motorized boat access (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards) to the island and return use of the Sunrise Beach to people visiting the island and walking the trails. Hundreds of island visitors, and the family who resides on Little Pine Tree Island, will benefit from the return of the serenity and natural beauty of the island once the negative impacts of rafting are alleviated.

ENFORCEMENT: Marine Patrol routinely passes Ragged Island, so we do not anticipate that enforcement of this NRZ would create undue burden for them. LRCT has, for years, welcomed Marine Patrol to use the LRCT docks and facilities as they deem necessary or helpful in the performance of their duties.

Petitioner, abutter and all signatories are property owners in, or residents of, Tuftonboro, NH.

<u>Name (Signature/Printed)</u>	<u>Tuftonboro Street Address</u>
Pat Cross	Cow Island 214 lot
DAVID CROSS	214 Cow Island
	128 "
Kathie Stinner	128 Cow Island
Barbara Jones	194 Cow Island
Pete Gamble	217 cow island
Kathy Pellatt	122 Cow Island
John Pellatt	122 Cow Island


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Name (Signature/Printed)	Tuftonboro Street Address
 MATTHEW ZAIS	203 Cow Island

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<u>David W. Harris</u>	<u>1 Little Pine Tree Island</u>
<u>Cynthia D. Harris</u>	<u>1 Little Pine Tree Island</u>
<u>Chustine Hane</u>	<u>185 Cow Island</u>
<u>Richard Fairman</u>	<u>22 Little Bear Island</u>
<u>John Norton</u>	<u>1 Windswept Island</u>
<u>Margalene Norton</u>	<u>1 Windswept Island</u>
<u>Daniel Nichols (Daniel Nicoli)</u>	<u>42 Little Bear Island</u>
<u>LIPYAK</u>	<u>256 COW ISLAND</u>
<u>J. ZAGNAILOFF</u>	<u>34 COW ISLAND</u>
<u>ROBERT S. REED</u>	<u>2 Usher Wharf Rd.</u>

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<u>Susan Light - Susan Light</u>	<u>Little Birch Island</u>	<u>8/13/22</u>
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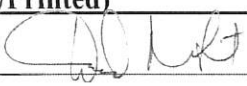
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<u>Name (Signature/Printed)</u>	<u>Tuftonboro Street Address</u>
David N. Light 	1 Little Birch Island, Tuftonboro, NH

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Name (Signature/Printed)

Tuftonboro Street Address

EC McCarter/Elizabeth McCarter

32 Barber Pole Rd

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Name (Signature/Printed)

Tuftonboro Street Address

Muriel Robinette 220 Cow Island, Tufonboro
 Michael Robinette 220 Cow Ish. Tufonboro

[illegible]

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Name (Signature/Printed)

Tuftonboro Street Address

Nancy Williams Nancy Williams

200 Cow Island Tuftonboro

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Tuftonboro Street Address

<u>FRED ROYS F. C. Roys</u>	<u>206 & 210 COW ISLAND</u>
<u>TRACY ROYS TR</u>	<u>206 & 210 COW ISLAND</u>

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<u>Cheryl Adams</u>	<u>44 Barber Pole Rd</u>
<u>Ken Master to Ken Master to</u>	<u>42 Barber Pole Rd</u>
<u>Martha Brubaker Martha Brubaker</u>	<u>42 Barber Pole Rd</u>
<u>Sarah Wright Sarah Wright</u>	<u>42 Barber Pole Rd</u>
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THREATENED SPECIES: Ragged Island, its shoreline and surrounding area, is important habitat for the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). The island has a long history of a productive nesting site on its northeast shore. The increased boat traffic along this shoreline from boats coming/going to this rafting site that is exploding in use, and the associated increase of wave action on the shore and impairments to local water quality, have high potential to negatively impact the nesting success of this threatened species. Additionally, dogs from anchored boats let loose onto the island can easily disturb the island wildlife, particularly ground/shore nesting birds.

ENFORCEMENT: Marine Patrol routinely passes Ragged Island, so we do not anticipate that enforcement of this NRZ would create undue burden for them. LRCT has, for years, welcomed Marine Patrol to use the LRCT docks and facilities as they deem necessary or helpful in the performance of their duties.

[illegible]



TOWN OF TUFTONBORO

"The Diamond in the Heart
of New Hampshire"

Lakes Region Conservation Trust

156 Dane Rd

Center Harbor, NH 03226

The Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen fully support the Lakes Region Conservation Trust bid to request a no rafting zone by Ragged Island from the State of NH. This support is for agreement only, not financial.

Respectfully,

William Albee, Chairman

Guy Pike, Selectman

Robert Murray, Selectman





Figure 1. Ragged Island - Proposed No Rafting Zone 1:150

Tuftonboro, NH

July 8, 2022

1 inch = 150 Feet

www.cai-tech.com



The proposed NRZ would extend from the end of the breakwater at the southeast corner of Ragged Island, east-southeast to a point located 150 feet at an azimuth of 135 degrees (due southeast) from the southeast corner of Little Pine Tree Island, north to the southwest corner of Booth/Little Ragged Island and west-northwest to the eastern shore of Ragged Island.



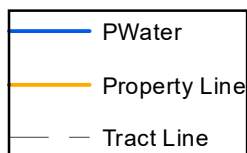
Figure 2. Ragged Island - Proposed No Rafting Zone 1:300

Tuftonboro, NH

July 8, 2022

1 inch = 300 Feet

www.cai-tech.com



The proposed NRZ would extend from the end of the breakwater at the southeast corner of Ragged Island, east-southeast to a point located 150 feet at an azimuth of 135 degrees (due southeast) from the southeast corner of Little Pine Tree Island, north to the southwest corner of Booth/Little Ragged Island and west-northwest to the eastern shore of Ragged Island.