

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, March 14, 2019
7:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Sally King, Heather Reed, Mike Garvan, Jeff Gardner and Susan Shepcaro

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **February 14, 2019**

The following correction was noted:

- Page 3, paragraph 3, it should be noted that it was not Vice-Chair McFarland who was at the recreation site. It was **Susan Shepcaro**.
- Page 3, paragraph 3, last sentence should read: He suggested that when the project gets to that stage, the Recreation and Conservation Commission meet on site to stake off the driveway to connect to the existing **parking lot**.
- Page 4, paragraph 4, last sentence should read: They use best management practices and will provide the Commission with a proposal of the **silt** fence design and containment area.
- Page 5, 1st paragraph should read: Tracy Degnan stated there **are** documented vernal pools on both properties...

Motion by Sally King to approve the minutes of February 14, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro. All in favor.

- **Site Walk minutes February 18th & February 23rd**

Motion by Mike Garvan to accept the site walk minutes of February 18 and February 23rd. Seconded by Sally King. All in favor.

III. WETLANDS

1. **55 Harbor Road**
Property Owner: Thibault, Seacoast Property Holdings
Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering

Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering, stated that not much has changed on the plan since the site walk. There were two walkways but one of them has been eliminated. Buffer planting areas have been added to the proposal. Those are the only two changes that have been made. He noted that ZBA will be looking for a letter from the Commission regarding the changes.

Member Garvan commented they have only written a letter in regards to the seawall at this point. He will follow up with a second letter to the ZBA.

2. 125 Central Road
Owners: Sargent
Mark West, West Environmental

Mark West, West Environmental, presented the plans for 125 Central Road. He noted that he has been to the site to flag the wetlands. The concern with the building inspector was the encroachment into the wetlands. (He noted the area on the plan where the property owner cleaned out tires, metal, wood and other debris. He also pointed out the location of the 75ft buffer on the plan.) He explained that because the property owner did a lot of cleanup of shrubs and invasives, he designed an infill type planting scheme where they will plant shrubs, red maples and highbush blueberries. He continued there was hardly any soil removed so it is all top soil still. It was more just cleanup. He has suggested to the property owner to leave some of the small brush piles and to straw mulch any disturbed soils. He pointed out that the area is really flat so there are no erosion areas. He also pointed out that no trees were removed from the wetland.

- **Site Walk scheduled for Monday, March 25th, 4:30 p.m.**

3. 2065 Ocean Blvd
Property Owner: Gray
Mark West, West Environmental

Mark West noted that the property owners did some cleanup and left some wood on the ground. There are also trees that have fallen over. They also cut the bittersweet that was killing the mature maples. Some additional cleanup was done in the upland next to the wetland. The house is 50ft from the wetland. The owner wants to plant landscaping to provide a buffer. A landscaping plan has been designed showing the minimum of what will be planted. He noted that in 2002, the property owner was given permission to grade right up to the wetlands, which is shown on the grading plan; however, a natural area was left. The proposal is to plant and mulch because there is some disturbed soil to create a buffer. The owner would also like to plant around the existing propane tank.

The commission reviewed the plan.

- **Site Walk scheduled for Monday, March 25th, 5:00 p.m.**

IV. BILLS

- **Jim Verra - \$1,679.78**

Motion by Sally King to pay Jim Verra in the amount of \$1,679.78. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

Motion by Sally King to pay the invoice submitted by Jim Verra and reviewed by Suzanne McFarland outside of meeting. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro. All in favor.

- Eversource - \$17.15

Motion by Sally King to pay Eversource in the amount of \$17.15. Seconded by Heather Reed. All in favor.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Spring message received from Debra Gore, Southeastment Stewardship Staff, Annual Monitoring of Conservation Easements.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair King noted the warrant article for the purchase of land in North Hampton passed.
- Member Garvan noted the site and animal control did not pass. That means on April 1st the temporary leash zone ordinance will expire.

Motion by Mike Garvan to contact the selectmen to extend it for another year. Seconded by Sally King. All in favor.

Chair King stated it has merit in that the commission is still trying to control animals in certain areas. She thinks they should also look at some fencing.

Member Garvan suggested they look at the forest plan first and discuss it at that point.

There was some discussion about moving a sign to the Tilton property line.

Member Garvan noted he was in the town forest earlier in the day and noticed five dogs in leashed areas without leashes. He also saw an unleashed dog with a woman walking the other day. He has had six encounters with dogs, all unleashed in leashed areas.

Chair King stated that people may be a little confused because it was temporary, only up until the election, and it did not pass. She thinks people should be aware of the fact that this is for safety. It is also an exercise in controlling their animal.

Member Garvan commented it is for the pet's safety, as well as other people who are enjoying the forest. He noted that with the snow, it can be seen that people are not going onto the Tilton property. They are going right up to. Coming the other way on the green trail, he followed some tracks and they went right up to the sign at the Tilton property but did not go further. Aside from the trespass problem, there is a problem with general control and enjoyment of life with people and dogs.

Chair King stated it is an opportunity to decrease use, to try to get some measure of control. In talking about education, this is also a way to take advantage of the fact that now everyone is aware of what is going on. These are areas where dogs have to be leashed. It is not optional. It's a way for people to control their dogs.

Member Garvan noted there is still an opportunity to educate people who still need to register their dogs for the year, if the commission can get a list of rules to the town clerk.

There was some discussion on ways to educate the public.

Election of Officers

Motion by Mike Garvan to nominate Sally King as chair for the next year. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro. All in favor.

Sally King accepted the position of chair.

Motion by Mike Garvan to nominate Suzanne McFarland as vice-chair for the next year. Seconded by Sally King. All in favor.

Motion by Sally King to nominate Mike Garvan as secretary for the next year. Seconded by Jeff Gardner. All in favor.

Mike Garvan accepted the position of secretary.

Chair King will let the Selectmen's Secretary know that there are two upcoming alternate positions on the board that will be available. Anyone who is interested in being on the board needs to submit a letter to the Selectmen, along with a letter of recommendation from the Conservation Commission Chair.

VII. Public comment

Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road, spoke to the commission about the conservation land located at the White Horse Development and access to the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jeff Gardner to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Sally King. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger