

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, January 19, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Members Present: Chair Sally King, Suzanne McFarland, Jaci Grote, Mike Garvan, Jeff Gardner, Jim Raynes and Susan Shepcaro

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 15, 2017
(Minutes were corrected and reposted on town website)

Motion by Jim Raynes to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Jeff Gardner. All in favor.

III. WETLANDS:

- A. Dean Korvas:** 92 Old Beach Road, Map 8.4/Lot 119
Mark West, West Environmental – Sea Wall

Mark West, West Environmental, noted that the property is no longer owned by Dean Korvas. It is owned by Matt O'Connor. The application and final plan will be filed within the next couple of weeks. He continued that the original plan is no longer going to happen. The current proposal will impact 200sf for construction of the wall, with no other grading. The wall will be kept as small as possible, in the footprint, so there will be minimal impact in the tidal buffer zone. (He submitted copies of the proposal to the commission and reviewed the plans.) He pointed out that the wall will be constructed of granite blocks. The blocks will be buried underground with another block on top. Approximately, 1.5ft of the wall will be exposed. The blocks will be connected, which is exactly what Peter Rowell, Building Inspector, requested in his letter to the property owner. The blocks need to be fastened together to act as an individual unit and should be 5 to 8 tons. He continued that the height of the blocks are 2ft.

Member Grote asked what will happen with the existing wall.

Mr. West explained that it will remain in place. The new wall will be constructed in front of the existing wall. It will still be above the highest observable tideline by about 20ft. The lawn behind the wall is going to be left as is and will not be regraded.

Member McFarland asked why this option is being chosen over riprap.

Mr. West explained that riprap would have to be much wider and would have a greater impact. It would not be as effective.

Chair King stated that Peter Rowell was concerned about the height. She asked if this is still a concern.

Mr. West replied that he is not sure because Mr. Rowell has not seen the new plan yet. He continued that Ambit Engineering is now working on the design of the wall. They believe the plan will address Mr. Rowell's concerns and also address Eben Lewis's concerns from NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). He noted that the wall is not going to direct any water onto the abutter's properties. The only place that water may go is down the right-of-way into the sand. Unless a wall is built in the right-of-way, it can't be protected. He stated that he will follow-up with Mr. Rowell and Mr. Lewis in regards to the right-of-way issue.

Chair King asked if the town should consider a wall to protect the right-of-way.

Mr. West replied they could consider this. There is a wall along the property boundary that is about 3 to 4ft high, which was built years ago. All the other properties are higher, except that piece (right-of-way).

Member Gardner asked if the owners will be doing any landscaping.

Mr. West commented they are leaving what is there now.

Member Grote pointed out that the plan says they are removing invasive species.

Mr. West explained that bittersweet is being removed. He continued that they could plant native shrubs instead of grasses.

Member McFarland stated that she is familiar with the property. Every time there was a little high tide the water came over the wall. There should be something to absorb the water on the other side of the wall. Fertilizer from this property is going right into the ocean.

The commission agreed that there should be plantings within the first 10ft behind the wall. A site walk will be set up once the final plan is submitted to the commission.

IV. TRAILS SUB-COMMTTEE – ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Member Garvan stated that a Trails Sub-Committee was formed in March. The sub-committee met over the course of six months. He noted that two of the members have resigned from the sub-committee. Addie Tarbell is a remaining member who is present.

Ms. Tarbell stated that she thought the idea of forming the sub-committee was to protect the people who use the forest. The sub-committee seemed to take an immediate turn in a different direction. Her feeling is that the trails oversight should be rolled back into the Conservation Commission.

Member Garvan agreed. He noted that the commission now has a full board. There seems to be enough members to address the issues of the forest and other parcels. Any member who has a concern or question, should contact him and the findings could be brought to the commission at the monthly meetings. He continued that one of the recommendations by the sub-committee, which was endorsed by the commission, was to postpone any decisions on further bog bridges and kiosks, until there was an updated Forest Management Plan. Charlie Moreno, who drafted the original plan, is working on an update and hopes to be finished by May. He will be furnishing Mr. Moreno with some information for the update. Mr. Moreno will present the updated plan to the commission once it is completed.

Motion by Jaci Grote to dissolve the Trails Sub-Committee of the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Jeff Gardner. All in favor.

V. BILLS

- **Eversource - \$18.64 – Goss Farm**

Motion by Jaci Grote to pay Eversource in the amount of \$18.64. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- **None**

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Petitioned Warrant Article on Trail Access – Discussion

Brian, Murphy, Wallis Road, presented and reviewed his petitioned warrant article to the commission.

ARTICLE __. (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Trail Access Feasibility Committee (Committee”) to explore the feasibility and funding requirements of expanding one of the existing public trails through the Rye Woods (behind Parson’s Field) for the purpose of increasing access to the Rye Recreation Area from the center of Town in general, and from the students of Rye Junior High School in particular. The Committee would develop recommendations for the best route, surface materials and maintenance plan; and would provide a report to the Town no later than September 1, 2017.

The Committee shall consist of a representative from Public Safety, a representative from the Recreation Department, a Planning Board member, a School Board member, and up to four citizen representatives who are Board Members of Leagues that use the Rye Recreation Fields, as well as additional members identified as needed by, and appointed by, the Committee. The Committee shall self-elect a citizen chairperson.

There was discussion on the wording and intent of the article, which may be contrary to the easement that is held on the Town Forest.

It was agreed that Mr. Murphy would walk the Town Forest with members of the Conservation Commission and discuss amendments to the warrant article that would respect the easement.

B. Potential Alternate Members Introduction:

- Heather Reed – 3 year appointment

Heather Reed, 165 West Road, stated that she has a strong interest in conservation. She recently completed the National Resources Stewards Program through the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and has a background in working with the environment. She commented that conservation is very important for the future of the town and the residents.

The commission reviewed the anticipated time commitment for members. A recommendation letter will be sent to the Selectmen from Chair Sally King.

Motion by Sally King to accept Heather Reed as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, pending the Selectmen's appointment at their meeting on January 23rd. Seconded by Suzanne McFarland. All in favor.

- Lawton Struble – 2 year appointment

Chair King noted that Lawton Struble is interested in returning to the Conservation Commission as an alternate member. He was a long standing member for about 8 years and had to step away for a while due to other commitments.

A recommendation letter will be sent to the Selectmen from Chair Sally King.

Motion by Mike Garvan to accept Lawton Struble as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, pending the Selectmen's appointment at their meeting on January 23rd. Seconded by Jeff Gardner. All in favor.

C. Town Website – Conservation Commission page

Member McFarland has been working with Janice Ireland, Selectmen's Secretary, on updating the Conservation Commission's page on the town website. Ms. Ireland has requested more photos from the commission to add to the page. Member Grote will contact Ms. Ireland with more photos.

D. Conservation Budget

There was some discussion about upcoming projects/expenses that will be covered under the budget for 2017. The commission will be working on a plan and timeframe for the expenses set aside in the budget.

E. Updates from Representative Messmer

Member Grote noted that the Conservation Commission should ask Representative Messmer to keep them informed and updated on the Coakley Landfill issues.

Carol Menard, South Road, expressed concerns regarding lack of communication between the boards and commissions in town.

Peter Crawford, 171 Brackett Road, noted that a link to the minutes of the meetings of the town boards are posted on the Rye Civic League website. There are also links to video streaming of meetings that do not have access to the Town Hall Streaming. For people who are interested in attending a Rye Water District Meeting, those are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. He spoke to the commission in regards to his petitioned warrant article to change the Rye Water District to an SB2 voting system.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- **Town Deliberative Session – Saturday, February 4th – 9:00 a.m. - Rye Junior High**
- **Planning Board Work Session – South Road/Falzone Subdivision – Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Next Conservation Commission Meeting – Thursday, February 16th – 7:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jaci Grote to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Seconded by Jim Raynes. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger