

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Thursday, June 15, 2017
7:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair King called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair King acknowledged the passing of Resident Lindsay Josephs who was a great friend and supporter of the Rye Conservation Commission. She worked diligently on many issues for the commission and was an active member of the Town. She will be greatly missed by all.

The Commission took a moment of silence in Mrs. Josephs memory.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **May 18, 2017**

Tabled to the July meeting in order for Vice-Chair McFarland to be present.

- **May 22, 2017 – Site Walk**

Motion by Mike Garvan to accept the minutes of the May 22, 2017 site walk. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro. Vote: 4-0-2 Abstained: Jaci Grote and Jeff Gardner

- **June 1, 2017 – Site Walk (20 Hunterville)**

Motion by Mike Garvan to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2017 site walk. Seconded by Sally King. Vote: 4-0-2 Abstained: Jaci Grote and Jeff Gardner

III. SARAH MACGREGOR, DRAGON MOSQUITO

- **How Conservation can cooperate with them.**

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito, met with the Commission to discuss mosquito control in Rye. She noted that Rye has a great deal of salt marshes, which breeds a lot of mosquitos. Every time the marsh floods with a moon tide or heavy rain millions of mosquito eggs will hatch. She noted that after two years with so little water, there are a lot of mosquito eggs that were dormant. The snow and rain washes the eggs into the water and the larvae hatch from the eggs. From the end of winter to May, the larvae start hatching into adults. The number of areas that have larvae is pretty extensive this year. She commented that they have been busy since April 12th when they received permission from the State to

treat the wetlands. She stated that wet summers favor Triple E and dry summers favor West Nile Virus. Adult mosquitos are collected and sent to the State lab for testing. There has not been an adult mosquito in New Hampshire that has tested positive. She continued that they are also watching the Zika Virus closely. There is one particular mosquito that carries Zika in other parts of the country. This mosquito has been found in Massachusetts and it seems that they are able to survive the winters. She commented that they will continue to monitor mosquitos in places that Zika would most likely be found; such as boats coming up from the south which could be carrying the mosquitos or pods/containers that are moving freight from other parts of the country. She explained that the Zika virus is spread from a mosquito biting a human, who has the virus, and the mosquito biting another human. It is a very unique disease. Triple E and West Nile are spread by mosquitos biting birds that carry the virus.

Ms. MacGregor stated that if Triple E or the West Nile Virus is found in a salt marsh mosquito the Town would have to go back to road spraying, which has not been done in six or seven years. When the Town had road spraying, anyone could sign up for no spraying by their property. Organic farms, streams, ocean, salt marshes and areas near the public wells do not get sprayed. There are quite a few places that would actually not be sprayed. She stated that there are about 38 different species of mosquitos in Rye. The salt marsh mosquito is very well known because they bite during the day, are very aggressive and live in a very hot environment with high salinity. She noted that her company uses a bacillus bacteria for control of the mosquitos on the salt marsh. It is nontoxic to everything else on the salt marsh. The product has been used for decades with great success. She explained there is lot of habitat in Rye where the species of mosquitos will have one generation. They'll hatch in May and are done for the whole summer. Whereas, the salt marsh mosquitos could be every two weeks. She noted that her company monitors the catch basins in Rye. They also focus on detention/retention ponds in the community. All the catch basins are treated, which give a greater control of West Nile by treating all the catch basins.

Ms. MacGregor stated that some residents have said that they miss the bird houses that were out on the Awcomin' Marsh. The current Mosquito Control Commission decided to not use the bird houses this year. Her company has been delivering bird houses to residents so they can enjoy the swallows on their property. She noted that the Greenhead Fly boxes have been placed out on the marsh. The traps have been painted green, as voted on by the Mosquito Commission, to blend in with the marshes.

Recommendations for helping to control mosquitos in the community:

- Do not allow any standing water on your property in containers, boats, canoes, tarps, wood pile, flower pots and wheel barrows/wagons. Be open to having Dragon check water that is found to look for larvae.
- Maintain window screens for the home.
- Viruses will show up towards the end of summer through the fall; mosquitos will hang around a barn until November so vaccination of horses is important.
- Residents who have a concern may contact Dragon through their website or by calling the office directly.

IV. FRED BORMAN WITH UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- Presenting "Town Forest Project"

Fred Borman, UNH Cooperative Extension, stated that the UNH Cooperative Extension is working with the New England Forest Center to update and correct data for town owned lands for the State Conservation layer on the Geographical Informational System (GIS). He explained that they are trying to identify all town forest and conservation land in the community that is greater than 10 acres. There is a seven page survey that has to be filled out for each parcel and tract. He continued that he has been going

through the town's tax maps; however, there are some parcels that he has questions for the Conservation Commission.

The Commission addressed a list of questions Mr. Borman had on the conservation parcels for Rye.

V. BILLS

- **Eversource - \$54.45**

Motion by Jeff Gardner to pay Eversource in the amount of \$54.45. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Member Garvan read a letter from Dave Clark, contractor for Matt Williams, 20 Huntervale Avenue, in response to the Commission's site walk and letter of decision.

Chair King stated that the Conservation Commission did respect the ZBA's decision. A number of members spoke against having property boundaries so close at 3ft. The Commission felt that 14ft was generous enough; however, the ZBA disagreed and that is their prerogative. This does not mean that conservation land has to be used as a staging ground for construction.

The members agreed.

Referring to Mr. Clark's comment about the parcel being a "dumping ground", Member Garvan pointed out that this is exactly what the Commission is trying to stop. A "no dumping" sign has been put up. When the Commission first visited the site, Mr. Williams was diverting his water, or overflow from his basement, onto that lot and the abutter on the other side of the lot was doing the same. This is exactly why conservation land should be conserved, left in its natural state and not be used as a dumping ground.

Chair King stated that although the Commission supports the ZBA decisions, it would be more respectful to conservation land to not treat it as a parcel that can be built up to the boundary of and is not equal to a property that has a home on it. People will start to think twice about gifting land to the Town if the Commission does not properly take care of the property. She continued that Mr. Clark makes very little of taking down the two nicest trees that are on the property, one that is on a shared boundary, in order for the project to move forward.

The Commission agreed that Member Garvan should follow up with Mr. Clark and Mr. Williams.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Member Shepcaro stated that she spoke with Carol Menard who is a resident of Rye. Ms. Menard had heard there were federal grants available for well head protection.

The members did not have any information; however, Chair King will speak with Tracy Degnan from Rockingham Conservation Commission.

- Member Garvan stated that the arborist that was hired to clean up the entrance to Varrell Woods has contacted him and said that he is not able to do the work.

Member Grote agreed to contact Alan Bucklin to see if he has the equipment and would be able to do the work.

- Referring to the Capital Improvements Plan update, Member Grote stated that the Commission had a warrant article slated for this year for a bond. The Commission did not put the warrant article forward because of other issues going before the voters. She asked if the Commission would like to keep this as a placeholder in the CIP.

The members agreed it should be kept as a placeholder for 2018.

- There was some review and discussion on the Commission's budget and upcoming expenses for conservation land cleanup.
- Chair King noted that someone had recently driven a vehicle on the Goss Farm, ran into the community garden fence and damaged the posts. Other damage was done on the property. She has informed the Police Department of the damage.
- Member Garvan stated that he has been working on putting the boundary signs at all the entrances to conservation land. Marden Woods is the only property that is left. There are trees down at that property and it should be added to the list for cleanup.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jaci Grote to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Mike Garvan. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger