

TOWN OF RYE – CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2019
7:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Sally King, Vice-Chair Jaci Grote, Mike Garvan, Susan Shepcaro, Heather Reed, and Jeffrey Gardner.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Sally King called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **March 14, 2019**

The following correction was noted:

- Page 3, Correspondence reads; Spring message received from Debra Gore, ~~Southeastment~~ Stewardship Staff, Annual Monitoring of Conservation Easements. It should read; Spring message received from Debra Gore, Southeast Land Trust Stewardship Staff, Annual Monitoring of Conservation Easements.

Motion by Jeff Gardner to approve the meeting minutes of March 14, 2019 as amended.
Seconded by Jaci Grote. 5- Yes; Jaci Grote – Abstained.

- **Site Walk Minutes March 25, 2019**
- Note Jeff Gardner was in attendance at the site walk and his name was added to the minutes.

Motion by Jeff Gardner to approve the site walk minutes of March 25, 2019 as amended.
Seconded by Susan Shepcaro. All in favor.

III. WETLANDS

1. 175 Harbor Road, Tax Map 9.2 Lot 22
Bruce Valley
Complete repairs to harbor front seawall damaged in winter storms of March 2018

Mr. Valley explained the project to the commission. He referred to the NH DES permit application. Mr. Valley stated that he has talked to Building Inspector Rowell and the Town's permit has been approved, with one consideration. The highest part of the wall should not be more than 13 feet above sea level, as it can cause flooding on abutter's land. Mr. Valley reported

that his wall is 10.6 feet. He gave the commission copies of the project description and showed them pictures of the property and the seawall damage. He added that three individuals from the construction firm that looked at this project told him that the real way to make a seawall resistant to the sea is called “chinking”, which is to drop smaller stones in-between the larger stones. They have no bearing on the conformation of the seawall but they tend to break up the energy of the sea, as it flashes through the wall. The chinking may also help with the back-draw of the sea, as it would act as a barrier as it withdrew.

After a lengthy discussion, the commission felt that a 3 to 5-foot planting buffer, on the back side of the wall, would be important in order to keep nutrients from leaching into the harbor and the marsh. Well rooted plantings will make the top soil more stabilized to help prevent it from being washed away.

Mr. Valley said he would be happy to do that. The schedule requires three to four months for this permit process, which put this into summer (It is not expedited). Mr. Valley acknowledged that due to the nature of the harbor, no one would be happy to see heavy equipment moving rocks around during the height of the season. He stated that the job will not be down until the late fall. He explained that the approach to the site will be on the water side of the wall. He pointed out that while doing the floats and the ramps for the pier, Greg Bauer went down with a large piece of equipment to the left of the pier and drove right into the water with the machine. Greg Bauer will be the one doing the job because he has the most experience.

- **The Commission scheduled a site walk: Monday, April 15, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**

IV. TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Update

Chair King explained that the management plan that was sent around to the members of the commission was not the finished product but was sent out in order to get feedback from the members. She reported that she and Member Shepcaro and Member Garvan will be meeting with Forester Charlie Marino, Tuesday at 10:30 at the Town Hall to go over the plan and make recommendations.

Member Garvan explained the list of recommendations as follows:

- Page 15: Talks about property features, which includes Rye recreation and Parsons Field as part of the Town Forest. He feels that is not a correct statement.
- Summary Recommendations: Number 1, regarding fences – Members Shepcaro’s recommendation is that number 1 should be to establish clear trail boundaries of abutting properties. (Reorganizing of some of the summary)
- Wild life should also be addressed in the summary.
- Wild life management seemed to get a low priority throughout the plan. Is it diverse? The original Forest Management Plan talked about the diversity of habitat. Mr. Marino also talks about having a Wild Life Reserve, but has he really addressed that? One interior trail is being moved so the inside of the “Green

Trail” could be the “Wild Life Reserve”. Feedback from Mr. Marino on this is important.

Member Shepcaro stated that since the commission started this process, two years ago, there has not been any restoration done on the “Red Trail”. She pointed out that it has already been left to nature.

Chair King suggested that they need to adjust to increase use. Maybe it is important to have the central area remain wild because the peripheral area is getting so much use. The intent is not to exclude people from using the Town Forest, as that was never the intention of the purchase of the property. The commission is just asking people to use it appropriately and trying to guide them in that direction.

Member Garvan pointed out that this is why the emphasis is on trail maintenance and marking.

Chair King pointed out that Mr. Marino indicated that the Forest is becoming more park like than forest like because of the use and the increased density in Rye.

Member Shepcaro pointed out that Mr. Marino talks a lot in the original plan about “retreats” for non-cutting and managed reserved cutting areas. She pointed out that a lot of Mr. Marino’s writings are not about the wild life culture. Even back in 2003, only a small number of animals and birds were living in the forest. Most of the animals are just traveling through the woods daily. She thought that the idea of registering the land as one of the State-Wide Eco-Reserves would be an interesting idea to pursue, to see how it works and if it is viable for Rye.

Chair King encouraged the members to review the plan and make suggestions.

Member Garvan asked Member Shepcaro to send the commission members her recommendations.

Member Shepcaro agreed.

Member Garvan pointed out that when the commission meets with Mr. Marino on Tuesday, it will be important to have their recommendations prioritized and ready to be addressed. After the Plan is finalized, the commission will be talking to Rockingham County Conservation Commission to help with the implementation of the plan.

Member Shepcaro mentioned that Mr. Marino was willing to do the new trail. She would like to hire him to do that piece or just mark out the trail.

Chair King suggested that Mr. Marino could mark the trail and the commission has two interns that could do the work.

Chair King pointed out that another Forester, Tim Nolan, is working on the Rand property with NRCS who is funding that project.

Member Garvan stated that the commission has to have a public meeting. He asked if they would be ready to have it at the regular meeting next month.

Chair King recommended having a special meeting due to Mr. Marino's schedule.

Leash Zones

Member Garvan reminded the commission that they voted last meeting to present the Selectmen with a request of a continuation of Ordinance 35. It would keep the existing zones in place, except the zone that is near the cemetery entrance, which goes to the stone wall. He stated that the Selectmen have asked the commission to have a representative at their meeting on the 22nd to discuss this. Mr. Joyce and Mr. Tilton were at the last meeting and wanted to have the entire Green Trail leashed. Member Garvan stated that it is the commission's position that this is not necessary. Mr. Tilton admitted that the situation has gotten better. The leash zones are working. Things are progressing properly. However, as Mr. Joyce and Mr. Tilton stated in their letter, there is a need for some enforcement; otherwise, people will not take it seriously.

Member Garvan and Member Shepcaro will be attending the Selectmen's meeting on the 22nd. Member Gavan stated that he has the maps and will have the language pre-written in order to make the process easier. He also stated he wanted to address a couple of comments that were made by Mr. Joyce and Mr. Tilton at the last meeting.

Chair King stated that this is important because Mr. Epperson is new to the Board of Selectmen. This will be a chance to get him up to speed on this issue. It will be good to give him a view of the entirety of what is happening; including the significant amount of work that Conservation has put into making this a better situation.

V. PENDING RETURN SITE WALKS

- **1313 Ocean Blvd.**, Tax Map 17.3 Lot 1, Riley – No Update
- **1647 Ocean Blvd.**, Tax Map 13 Lot 19, Quirk

Chair King emailed Ms. Quirk. Ms. Quirk had a question about gardener's cloth. She wanted to put it down under the plants to inhibit weeds. Chair King explained that it inhibits all growth and that the commission is looking for a buffer. Ms. Quirk has agreed not to use it.

Chair King reported that she drove by the property and there are plantings coming up. It looks good from the road.

- **1611 Ocean Blvd.**, Tax Map 13 Lot 27, Huff

Chair King reported that she has sent an email. The property is on the market and the deck project has been completed. There has not been any planting done yet. Mr. Huff said that he is thinking of doing the planting this spring.

- **30 LaMer**, Tax Map 13 Lot 44, Beynon

Member Shepcaro reported that the project is still in the mid-building stage. She knows the landscaper and is planning to provide them with a planting plan and the DES plat.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Member Garvan announced that he received a letter from the niece of Cynthia Varrell. Cynthia grew up in Mr. Garvan's house. She was married in the living room and the reception was in the back yard. Cynthia has passed away and the family is going to bury her in the town cemetery. They have asked to stop by to see the house. Cynthia's husband is still living at 98 and would like to walk into Varrell Woods. Member Garvan will be welcoming the family to the house in late May.

Member Grote recommended adding the story to the newsletter and to make sure the town museum has a copy.

Chair King reported that the other correspondence are some abutter's notices for the Patrick properties on South Road. The property is being sold and will be developed.

A letter was received from Southeast Land Trust for are easement monitoring. Chair King commented that it would be good for a member to be at the property in order to show them around. She will send the members the notices of the times when she receives them.

VII. BILLS

The following bills were agreed to be paid:

• Sally King	\$ 177.30	Reimbursement for blueberry plants
• Rockingham Conservation	614.47	
• Eversource	41.27	Electric
• James Vera & Associates	225.00	Pokorney Property
• James Vera & Associates	9,706.33	Marden Woods
• James Vera & Associates	67.50	Consultations with Donovan
• Michael Donovan	1,393.70	Ferguson Property
• Jeff Ireland	105.00	Plowing Rand Easement
• Mike Garvan	685.70	Reimbursement

Chair King sent the list of bills around to the Members for signatures.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- The second graders will be at Goss Farm on Thursday the 18th to plant the blueberry bushes. The prep day will be Wednesday the 17th from 9-11. A farmer who will be hosting one of the three stations will be planting sunflowers this year. Joey, the bee guy, will also be hosting a station again this year.

- Member Shepcaro stated that she had received an email from a student that is a junior at Portsmouth High School. She wants to become an intern and work four days a week. Member Shepcaro said that she will not be able to supervise four days a week. Tracy Degan also emailed and said that she has an intern that wants to work two days a week. The junior from Portsmouth High has agreed to work two days a week. Member Shepcaro asked if anyone else on the Commission has anything that these two interns could work on.

Member Grote stated that she would help. She has work at South Road Cedar Run. She suggested she could meet them Friday, May 3rd.

Member Shepcaro announced that she has talked to Taylor at the farm in order to get a list of jobs that has to be done. The school needs an answer A.S.A.P. The program will be from now until June 11th. The students get out of school at 12:10 and will get to the project by 12:30. They have to leave by 1:40 to go back to school. Member Shepcaro noted that Thursdays and Fridays are the best days for her.

- Chair King reported that the Rye Day plans are on hold because there is not enough time to plan for this year. There will be plans for 2020. However, now there is a suggestion to have some kind of a dinner or picnic at the Goss Farm for this year. Chair King said she personally feels there is not enough time to pull that off for this year, plus they cannot use the inside of the barn and there is no kitchen. A meeting for Rye Day is tomorrow at 3:00 here at the Town Hall. Member Grote said that she will attend the meeting with Chair King.

IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Acquisition

At 8:20 p.m. the Commission voted to go into Non-Public Session.

Motion by Jaci Grote to go into Non-Public Session (1) per RSA 91-A:3,II (d) Acquisition. Seconded by Sally King.

Chair Sally King – Yes; Jaci Grote – Yes; – Jeff Gardner - Yes; Mike Garvan –Yes; Susan Shepcaro – Yes; Heather Reed – Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger