

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, October 10, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Sally King, Vice-Chair Suzanne McFarland, Mike Garvan, Jeff Gardner, Heather Reed, Susan Shepcaro, and Karen Oliver

6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair King called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. WORK SESSION

A. UNH Amanda Stone and Lisa Wise

The Conservation Commission met with Amanda Stone and Lisa Wise, UNH Extension, to work on ideas for public education and the outreach forum for the NH Coastal Conservation Plan (Land Conservation Priorities for the Protection of Coastal Water Resources), which was originally published in 2006 and updated in 2016. The plan provides information on opportunities for land conservation that would provide the highest level of protection to water resources and to the community as well. The analysis also focuses on salt marsh migration, flood storage and identifies riparian buffer areas that have potential for protection. As part of the work by the UNH Extension, an educational and outreach program is required for the town's citizens.

The public forum is scheduled for Monday, November 18th, 5:30 to 7:00, at the Rye Junior High. Refreshments will be served before the forum from 5:00 to 5:30. The group discussed posting flyers in Town and announcing the event on social media. Notices of the forum will be sent to all town boards, departments and schools. Alternate Oliver will contact Rye Magazine to see if a notice can be listed in the next issue. She will also check to see if a notice can be sent to the people on the Rye Public Library's email list.

There was discussion on the organization of tables at the event. It was felt that it would be best to mix the tables with members of the boards and commissions with members of the public. Vice-Chair McFarland agreed to handle the R.S.V.P's and collect names, email addresses and phone numbers.

The Commission reviewed the proposal for the maps that will be presented at the public forum; The Buffers for Water Quality and The Flood Storage and Risk Mitigation (Salt Water Migration). The Commission also reviewed the proposed outline for the program the night of the forum.

7:00 p.m. NON-MEETING CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Motion by Mike Garvan to come out of public session and go into a non-meeting consultation with legal counsel. Seconded by Heather Reed. All in favor.

7:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting was reconvened at 7:35. A motion was made to reconvene by Member Garvan. Seconded by Member Reed. All in favor.

A motion was made by Member Shepcaro to seal the minutes of the non-meeting. Seconded by Member Gardner. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12, 2019 regular meeting and the minutes of the September 9 and September 25, 2019 site walks were approved.

WETLAND APPLICATIONS

A wetlands application for Tax Map 08 Lot 059 was presented by Katy Wilkins, Tighe & Bond Engineering, along with Leonard Lord, Eversource Energy. The project involves replacing 5 utility poles along a portion of Ocean Boulevard. Each pole will require 3 days for the replacement. The old poles will be cut flush and not removed so that the wetland disturbance is minimized. Only one timber mat will be used at a time. An auger will be used to excavate the new holes and a bucket truck will install the new poles. The project appears to be well designed with the intent of minimizing the impact on the wetland. Chair King asked the other members if they had any objections to the project. There were none so Chair King said the RCC will issue a letter to DES expressing approval of the project.

PENDING SITE WALKS

177 West Road: A presentation was made by Molly Heaney, the owner of 177 West Road. They are building a new patio to replace the old one. The old patio was in the 75' wetland buffer. The new patio will be constructed outside the buffer except for a walk way that joins the patio to the house. A site walk was scheduled for 4pm on October 16, 2019.

16 Richard Road: Formerly 0 Richard Road, Tax Map 052 Lot 156. The Rye Building Department has requested that the RCC look at the project since it doesn't appear to conform to the original approved plan. A site walk was scheduled for 4:45pm on October 16, 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Goss Farm Day: Chair King reported that some 500-600 people attended the event, exceeding initial expectations.
- B. Invasives workshop: The EDD maps can be used for the workshop.
- C. Town Forest: Member Shepcaro reported that the final draft of the updated Forest Management Plan has been completed by Forester Charles Moreno. He contracted a wildlife biologist to address wildlife concerns in the Town Forest and that is included as an appendix. Member Shepcaro urged all members to read the new management plan and be prepared to vote on it at the regular meeting on November 14, 2019. The Rockingham County Conservation District is the Town Forest easement holder and they will be sent a copy and the RCC hopes to have their approval by the 11/14/19 meeting. Member Garvan stated that he thought the plan was well constructed and adequately addressed the relevant issues in the town forest.

- D. ConComm Roundtable dates: The dates for the upcoming roundtable of local Conservation Commissions were announced.
- E. Priority and Strategy Workshop: The 6:30pm workshop addressed the November 18, 2019 meeting so it wasn't discussed further here except that Vice Chair McFarland stressed that RCC member should bring at least one and preferably two people to the event.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Rye Beach Committee was read. Committee members Steve Hillman and Larry Rocha were present to discuss the letter. The Beach Committee is concerned that some residents with homes on the beach are using recommendations by the RCC and DES for planting native grasses to extend their properties into the beach. The original plantings are sometimes larger than recommended and they often propagate further into the beach. This is reducing how much beach is available to the public. Chair King mentioned that the plantings can be important in reducing beach erosion. Member Gardner pointed out that the plantings don't appear to be in conflict with state law. DES will be contacted to get their take on the issue.

BILLS

- A. Reimburse Suzanne McFarland \$35 for laminating 3 large resource maps at Southport Printing.
- B. Goss farm bills from Goss farm day were discussed and paid.
- C. Hardy Electric, LLC \$900 to bring the Goss barn up to code for Goss farm Day.
- D. NH Association of Conservation Commissions \$550 for annual dues.
- E. Rye Water District \$1,035.60 to repair the water leak at the Goss farm.
- F. Charles Moreno \$2,500 for additional work required to complete the Forest Management Plan.
- G. Reimburse Susan Shepcaro \$765 for materials and work to get Goss Farm ready for Goss Farm Day.
- H. Pay Attorney Donovan \$735 for his work on Driftwood Equestrian.

A motion to pay was made by Member Gardner and seconded by Member Garvan. All in favor.

The Non-Public Session scheduled for the end of the meeting was deemed unnecessary by Chair King and was eliminated.

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Shepcaro and was seconded by Member Gardner. All in favor.