

**RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Natural Resource Inventory Work Shop**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. – Via ZOOM**

*Members Present: Chair Suzanne McFarland, Vice-Chair Sally King, Heather Reed, Karen Oliver and Danna Truslow (Jaci Grote also joined later in the meeting via Zoom but was not present during roll call.)*

**I. Call to Order**

Chair McFarland called the work session to order at 1:10 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alternates Karen Oliver and Danna Truslow were seated. (*quorum present*)

**II. Right to Know Law during State of Emergency**

Statement by Chair McFarland:

*As chair of the Conservation Commission, I find that due the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.*

*Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:*

*Utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this or by clicking on the following website address: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)  
Meeting ID: 772-729-888 Password: RCC03870*

*We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Commission at [town.rye.nh.us](http://town.rye.nh.us) on the Conservation Commission page and click on agenda for this meeting.*

*In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.*

*Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.*

**Attendance by Roll Call:**

- Suzanne McFarland
- Heather Reed
- Danna Truslow
- Karen Oliver
- Sally King

*(All members noted that there was no one else present in the room with them for the work session/meeting.)*

**III. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)**

Chair McFarland noted that Heather Reed has volunteered to start working on a draft of what the Commission would like in the NRI so an RFP can be prepared to hire a consultant to help complete the document. The intent is to move this forward within the next six weeks.

The Commission reviewed the Natural Resources Inventory Sheet, which was provided by Amanda Stone, Natural Resources and Land Conservation State Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension.

Comments from the Commission:

- Danna Truslow looked at the Town of Epping's NRI and liked the concentration on habitats and work the commission has done to further identify those resources.
- Heather Reed likes the idea of listing the goals because it lays out the framework for the NRI.
- Suzanne McFarland referred to Hampton's Master Plan which has a section similar to what the RCC is doing now.
- Sally King noted that Hampton is a good guide to consider because they are looking at climate, now and for the future.
- Suzanne McFarland noted that Hampton is also working on an NRI with Amanda Stone. Rye and Hampton will be working on NRI's that complement one another.

**Review of NRI Checklist:**

**Introduction:** This is a place to explain the purpose and goals of the NRI. Should capture people's attention so they will want to continue reading. The Commission will discuss the purpose and goals at the next meeting.

The Commission agreed to work on the content for the NRI and then work on where the sections should be placed in the document. It was also agreed to include an overall summary to give a quick overview of the document.

**Water Resources, Water Sheds and Surface Waters:** Water quality will be added to this section. It was agreed that oceans and tidal waters should be added to 'Water Resources'. This may also be the section to include (or refer to) the Water Resource Protection Maps.

**Wildlife:** Focus on Rye's habitat with details about locations, percent coverage and important habitat information taken from the NH Granite website and the Coastal Viewer website. Other resources that can be used for this section include the Wildlife Action Plan and NH Habitat Corridor Maps. It was agreed that this section should include as many maps and visuals as possible. Native and non-native plant species should be added to this section.

**Agriculture and Forestry:** This section would include forestry management and information on Goss Farm. Agricultural soils are mapped and ranked by the National Resource Conservation Service and this information can be considered for this section. NRCS also has information on forestry management. Parcels that have forest management plans should be included.

Considered for this section; haying, sugaring, and apples. The Commission agreed to consider a section on fisheries.

**Section 5:** To be determined by the Commission.

**Scenic Resources:** The Rye Historic Society can be used for information on scenic resources, which include coastal, agricultural, pasture lands, salt marshes, beaches and scenic roads. The Isles of Shoals should also be included in the NRI (which may be its own section).

**Historical and Cultural Resources:** The Historical Society will be asked if they would like to be involved with this section. The Library can also be used as a resource for information.

**Public, Conserved and Recreational Lands:** A lot of this information is already documented and can be used as information. This section will focus on conservation land and easements on land in town.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

- Members to think about the climate thread for the next meeting.
- Members to look at the wildlife section for more thoughts on that section for the next workshop/meeting.
- Other NRI's to review; Moultonborough, Epping and Washington. Member Reed will email a list with links to the members.

**Steering Committee:** These people will be asked to work with the consultant on sections specific to their interests. They would be invited to a kickoff meeting but would not be required to come to additional meetings.

- Historical Society
- Library
- Planning Administrator to be kept informed
- Planning Board Chair to be kept informed
- Resident Roger Philbrick
- Rye Harbor Master Leo Axtin
- Representative for Isles of Shoals
- Tracy Degnan (information resource)

The Committee reviewed a list of possible consultants. The intent is to have the Request for Proposals (RFP) go out the beginning of June, if not sooner.

**V. Other Business**

*None*

**VI. Bills**

**Motion by Suzanne McFarland to pay James Verra in the amount of \$5,863.10 for the continuation of the surveying for the James Raynes Conservation Land. Seconded by Sally King.**

**Roll Call: Karen Oliver – Aye; Heather Reed – Aye; Jaci Grote – Aye; Danna Truslow – Aye; Sally King – Aye; Suzanne McFarland – Aye**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion by Suzanne McFarland to pay BCM Environmental and Land Law in the amount of \$2,206.25 contingent upon the clarification of \$200.00. Seconded by Karen Oliver.**

**Roll Call: Danna Truslow – Aye; Karen Oliver – Aye; Heather Reed – Aye; Jaci Grote – Aye; Sally King – Aye; Suzanne McFarland – Aye**

**Motion passed.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Jaci Grote to adjourn at 2:47 p.m. Seconded by Danna Truslow.**

**Roll Call: Karen Oliver – Aye; Heather Reed – Aye; Jaci Grote – Aye; Danna Truslow – Aye; Sally King – Aye; Suzanne McFarland – Aye**

**Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger