

**RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Natural Resource Inventory Work Shop**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. – Via ZOOM**

***Members Present: Chair Suzanne McFarland, Vice-Chair Sally King, Heather Reed, Danna Truslow and Karen Oliver***

**I. Call to Order**

Chair McFarland called the work session to order at 1:05 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: 935-7986-1114 Password: 911724*

*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
- Karen Oliver
- Danna Truslow
- Heather Reed
- Sally King

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

**III. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2020**

The following correction was noted:

- Page 5, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph from the bottom, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read: **Chair McFarland commented that the Town of Hampton has a chapter like this in their master plan.**

**Motion by Suzanne McFarland to approve the minutes of April 14, 2020 as amended.**

**Seconded by Sally King.**

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

**Motion passed.**

**IV. NRI – Formulate Purpose and Goals – based on Master Plan and other NRI’s**

Chair McFarland presented an outline she drafted to start work on the purpose and goals for the NRI.

**NRI draft:**

- The members agreed to have the purpose and goals listed separately. It was suggested that the overall goals should be stated in the beginning.
- All members agreed that they liked the format of Epping’s purpose with bullet points being used. They agreed the purpose and goals should be simple to read.
- Chair McFarland liked Campton’s intent; “working document to guide planning and policy”. It was agreed it should be clear that this is a working document and is always changing.
- The goals should also include the climate element and coastal references.
- The members agreed to combine Epping’s and Washington’s goals.

Some favored goals:

- ❖ *To protect the Town’s water quality, wetlands and aquifers*
- ❖ *To maintain recreational opportunities through protection and connection*
- ❖ *To protect the natural ability of the landscape to withstand flooding*

It was agreed the members can edit and add their thoughts on goals to the draft online.

## **V. Review Master Plan Chapter 7 Natural Resources**

The Commission reviewed Chapter 7 Natural Resources of the Rye Master Plan.

### Comments:

- The most recent data is 2015. Should get updated data for the NRI if possible.
- Master Plan Visioning Process (7.2) – Lists objectives and issues relative to the area. These should be reviewed to determine how much of this should be incorporated into the NRI.

Some favored issues/objectives:

- ❖ *Beaches/Waterfront – keep beaches clean, stabilizing shorelines, controlling invasive species, control flooding from climate change, minimize impacts*
- The members agreed that they like other communities' NRI's that included population change, which is not included in Chapter 7 of Rye's Master Plan. Some information and benchmarks can be taken from the 'Land Use' Chapter.
- Other information to be considered for NRI: Water Resource Maps; Forest Management Plan; and Rand Parcel Forest Management Plan
- Other departments in town may have resources and information that may be relevant to the NRI. (This may be organized and coordinated by a consultant)
- The members agreed that they liked the 'Next Steps' in Chapter 7, as it covers things the Conservation Commission is already doing.

It was agreed to use the Master Plan as a reference document and work through it with the consultant.

## **VI. Next Steps**

- Member Truslow agreed to compile a list of relevant reference documents that have been created by the Conservation Commission.
- Chair McFarland has reached out to the Isles of Shoals and is still waiting to hear back.
- Chair McFarland will email the RFP to the group to review. She will also follow up with the Town Administrator on best practices on the RFP process.
- Chair McFarland will reach out to Amanda Stone and Lisa Wise to see if they can meet with the group in two weeks. (May 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Members to give suggestions and edits to the online document for next meeting.

**VII. Bills**  
*None*

**VIII. Other**

Vice-Chair King noted that volunteers are welcome at the Goss Farm to help weed the blueberries. There are other ongoing projects at the farm that the Commission needs help with.

There was some discussion about possibly starting a sign-up list through ‘Sign-up Genie’ so people will still be able to practice social distancing.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Karen Oliver to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Seconded by Sally King.**

**Roll Call: Karen Oliver – Aye; Sally King – Aye; Heather Reed – Aye; Suzanne McFarland – Aye (Danna Truslow not available for vote)**

**Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger