

TOWN OF RYE – CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, February 22, 2018
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Sally King, Vice-Chair Suzanne McFarland, Jaci Grote, Susan Shepcaro, Alternates Heather Reed and Jim Raynes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair King called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alternates Jim Raynes and Heather Reed were seated for Jeff Gardner and Mike Garvan.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the expenditure of \$300,000 of Conservation Fund monies to be taken from a previously authorized bond for the purpose of acquiring ± 57 acres of open space currently part of Tax Map 24, Parcels 32 & 25. The open space is part of the proposed Stoneleigh Preserve Subdivision located at 421 South Road. Copies of the subdivision plans showing the open space are available for inspection in the Planning Department at Town Hall.

Chair King explained that this is part of a development that is being proposed off South Road. Originally the development was for 21 lots and it has gone through a lot of iterations. It finally came down to the developer suing the Rye Planning Board. During mediation, the Conservation Commission became involved because of its interest in the back land for conservation. There is contiguous conservation land to the northwest of the development. It is also part of Cedar Run Swamp, which is a unique forest. Nature Conservancy has land that protects that area as well. The property is also a potential water source for the Town of Rye. The Conservation Commission is always trying to protect the town's water resources. The parcel is also a part of a substantial wildlife corridor. She continued that at one time the developer was considering gifting some of the land to the Conservation Commission; however, that did not happen. Currently, the development is proposed at 13 lots and with homes will be marketed at the 1.5 million dollar range, which was agreed to as part of the settlement. She noted that the Selectmen waived the A through Q requirements used for land acquisition by the town in order to meet the deadlines for the settlement.

At 5:08 p.m., Chair King opened to the public.

Peter Crawford, 171 Brackett Road, reviewed the list of A through Q requirements. He also spoke in regards to the value of the property.

There was review of the original proposal from the developer. There was also review of the land area being acquired by the Conservation Commission.

Victor Azzi, Old Ocean Blvd, expressed his concerns on an appraisal not being completed before the conservation acquisition.

At 5:56 p.m., Jaci Grote made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Jim Raynes.

Vote: Heather Reed – Yes, Jaci Grote – Yes, Sally King – Yes, Suzanne McFarland – Yes, Susan Shepcaro – Yes, Raynes – Yes.

Motion by Jaci Grote to approve the acquisition of 57.29 acres of open space from Harbor Street, LLC, or any successor or entity, as shown on Sheets 1 and 2 of plan entitled Subdivision Plan of Stoneleigh Preserve prepared by Doucet Survey, Inc, the latest revision dated January 30, 2018, to approve the disbursement of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for said acquisition to be taken from bond proceeds authorized by Article 7 at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting, to authorize town counsel to prepare a purchase and sale agreement for said acquisition and to authorize the chair to sign the purchase and sale agreement. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro.

Vote: Heather Reed – Yes, Jaci Grote – Yes, Sally King – Yes, Suzanne McFarland – Yes, Susan Shepcaro – Yes, Jim Raynes – Yes

Motion by Suzanne McFarland to accept the donation of lot 2 in accordance with the terms of the settlement stipulation. Seconded by Susan Shepcaro.

Vote: Heather Reed – Yes, Jaci Grote – Yes, Sally King – Yes, Suzanne McFarland – Yes, Susan Shepcaro – Yes, Jim Raynes - Yes

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jaci Grote to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. Seconded by Jim Raynes. All in favor.


Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**Town of Rye Conservation Commission
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Address

Name (please print)	Address	Signature
Amanda Raynes	289 Cornish Ln	[Signature]
James Raynes	24 Fairhill Ave	[Signature]
Peter Crawford	171 Brackett Rd.	[Signature]
Victor Azzi	Old Ocean Blvd.	[Signature]

Amanda Raynes 289 Cornish Ave. N.H. 
James Raynes 24 Fairhill Ave. Rye
Peter Crawford 171 Brackett Rd. Peter A. Crawford
Victor Azzi Old Ocean Blvd. 