RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Site Walk Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chair King at 4:30 pm

4:30 pm: 45 Washington Road, Map 017 Lot 073, Owner: Amy and John Shafmaster.
RCC members present: Chair Sally King, Vice Chair Suzanne McFarland, Members Jeff
Gardner, Susan Shepcaro, and Mike Garvan. Present: Amy Shafmaster, owner.

The RCC visited this site because it had been reported that many truckloads of fill had been
brought into the property and that some of it was deposited in the wetland buffer. Mrs.
Shafmaster explained that the fill had been brought in as part of constructing a new septic
system.

The wetland buffer was marked with flags so that the commission could determine the degree of
encroachment into the buffer. Fill was deposited in the 75 foot buffer and exists for about 12 feet
tapering into the buffer. There was also disturbance from construction vehicles in the buffer and
grass has been established in the buffer. The marsh was clearly delineated by extensive
phragmites growing along its edge. Lawns established in the buffer by the Shafmasters and their
neighbors have undoubtedly created conditions where the phragmites flourishes.

Members of the RCC discussed this with Mrs. Shafmaster and explained the reasons that buffer
disturbances can degrade the wetlands and the marsh. Chair King recommended that the
Shafmasters plant native trees and/or shrubs along the tree line to help with filtration of potential
contaminants coming from the lawn. She also recommended that the owners do not mow beyond
the 75 buffer line to reestablish a more natural buffer free of fertilizer and other law
amendments.

As the RCC left the property, the next door neighbor, Mr. Richard Corrente, introduced himself
and spoke briefly about the survey he was having done to determine the property line between
61 Washington Road and 45 Washington Road. He mentioned that there had been some issues
with water flowing from the Shafmaster property onto his property.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk