

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Friday, October 27, 2017

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

4:30 pm: 35 Recreation Road, Tax Map 012 Lot 083 Owner, Anna Shepard.

RCC members present: Chair Sally King, Members Jeff Gardner, Jaci Grote, and Mike Garvan. Present: Steve Riker, CWS, Ambit Engineering, representing the owner.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 35 Recreation Road to assess a wetland violation of cutting trees in the wetland buffer. The owner hired a tree removal company to create a view of Awcomin Marsh on the back side of her home. The area was clearcut to include 21 trees with a diameter greater than 4.5" at a height of 4.5 feet in violation of wetland buffer ordinances. Ms. Shepard was informed of the violation by Rye Building Inspector Peter Rowell and has developed a restoration plan for the affected area.

The RCC walked the cut over area and went over the restoration plan with Mr. Riker on the site. The RCC generally approved of the restoration plan but had several modifications and conditions it recommends.

- 1) The plan calls for a 1:1 replacement of the removed large trees but they are shown to be more along the edge of the cut over area than were the harvested trees. The replacement trees should be as close to the location of the harvested trees so that the middle of the area is not devoid of replacement trees.
- 2) The plan calls for the replacement trees to be between 12" and 4 feet tall. It also calls for the trees to be 2-4" in diameter. The height range should be eliminated and just trees with diameters 2-4" used as replacement trees. The RCC didn't understand how a tree 2-4" in diameter could only be 12" tall.
- 3) There should be no more live vegetation cut.
- 4) The area should not be converted to lawn or seeded to non-native grasses.
- 5) Cleanup is permitted but only by hand. No machinery should be used in the wetland buffer. Woodchips should be taken offsite and not deposited in the wetland or wetland buffer.

The RCC appreciates the cooperation of the owner and her willingness to restore the area in a meaningful way. The plan calls for using native trees and shrubs which is in keeping with our guidelines.

The Conservation Commission approves of the restoration plan as amended by the recommendations above. The RCC reserves the right to visit the property after the restoration is complete to ensure that it was done according to specifications.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk