

## **RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Site Walk Minutes**

**Thursday, July 11, 2019**

#### **6:00 pm: 1090 Washington Road, Driftwood Equestrian, Tax Map 6 Lot 28**

Meeting was called to order by Chair King at 6:00 pm.

RCC members present at site walk: Chair Sally King. Members: Heather Reed, Susan Shepcaro, Jaci Grote and Mike Garvan.

Present: Michael Donovan, Rye town attorney; Philip Lake attorney for Driftwood Equestrian; Alysson Siopes, David Tromp; Peter Powell, Rye Building Department; Lucy Braun and John Tredenick.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 1090 Washington Road to discuss compliance with the conservation easement on the property. A shed was moved two months ago out of the prescribed building envelope in violation of the easement. There was discussion about whether it should be moved back but it was pointed out that moving it back into the building envelope might endanger the horses in the barn if there had to be an emergency evacuation in the event there was a fire. The RCC agreed it could remain in place and that electricity could be installed as long as all proper permits were obtained.

A well has been established outside the building envelope without notification of the Conservation Commission. The RCC discussed the situation and felt that the farm could benefit from the well. It needs to be hooked up to power and as long as the proper permits are obtained, the well may be established and used.

At the last visit by the RCC there was a large amount of debris and manure piled up beyond the building envelope in violation of the easement. A tour of the area showed that almost all of the debris had been removed and the manure has been moved into windrows to accelerate the drying process and allow more oxygen to age the manure. A significant amount of manure has been moved offsite. This was a major improvement. The RCC recommended that the owners prepare a manure storage and management plan that would detail how and when the current piles would be removed and how the future accumulation of manure would be handled.

Next the group looked at the debris which had been pushed into the woods behind the large vegetable garden. There was a discussion about whether this could remain as wildlife habitat and if it differs from a natural accumulation of debris in the forest. It is much higher and denser than would occur naturally in the woods and the RCC wants to see it removed, whether by burning or chipping.

The group then looked at the excavation for the proposed riding arena. Topsoil has been removed in preparation for creating the arena. The arena will be 240 ft. by 120ft or 2/3 of an acre in size. It will have a sand bed. There will be no fences, bleachers or observation structures associated with it. It will be used for training days for jumping horses. There could be up to 50 horses participating in such events. This raised concerns about parking for the riders and their trucks

and trailers. The RCC does not want to see parking in the fields but only in the building envelope as allowed by the conservation easement.

The owners have begun to create a garlic garden on the western side of the property beyond the paddocks. It appears to be about 150 feet by 50 feet. This is an agricultural use that is most likely allowed by the easement.

Chair King had to leave to open the town hall for the 7pm regular meeting of the RCC.

The RCC looked at a location for a farm stand to sell produce grown on the farm. It is near the building envelope. The tent that will be used is 18 feet by 20 feet. The RCC had no objection to the temporary farm sales tent so long as it was located in the building envelope.

At 7:05pm the discussion was moved to the town hall to be taken up as the first agenda item at the regular meeting of the RCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk