

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Site Walk Minutes
Wednesday July 17, 2019

3:30 pm: 24 Robin Road, Tax Map 202 Lot 117, Owner: Allison Pellegrino

Vice Chair McFarland called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Conservation Commission members present at all site walks: Chair Sally King, Vice Chair Suzanne McFarland, Members Jaci Grote, Karen Oliver, Susan Shepcaro and Mike Garvan
Present: Allison Pellegrino, owner, and a friend of hers.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 24 Robin Road in response to reports that a large tree in the wetland buffer had been removed without proper permitting. A large tree had fallen on the property over the winter and in June, Ms. Pellegrino hired a contractor to remove it. The contractor accessed the property via Manor Road with heavy equipment and cut the tree into 8 foot sections which he removed. The remainder of the tree and roots were pushed to the edge of the wetland. The removal caused a 10 foot wide swath of disturbance in the wetland buffer.

The RCC recommends that the debris must be removed from the buffer. Since the area is already disturbed, the Commission felt that it would be acceptable to use mechanical equipment to remove the debris as long as it is done while the ground is still dry. Otherwise, the debris must be removed by hand. The disturbed area in the buffer must be smoothed out then seeded with a conservation seed mix.

4:00 pm: 23 Harborview Drive, Tax Map 026 Lot 004, Owner: Matthew & Kate Siler

Present: RCC Member Heather Reed; Owners Matt and Kate Siler; Corey Colwell and Eric Salovitch, TF Moran, and designer Brad McNamara.

The RCC conducted a site walk at 23 Harborview Drive to evaluate a proposal to tear down an existing residence and construct a new one on a site that is on Sagamore Creek. There will be disturbance from construction within the 100 foot tidal buffer. There will be no tree cutting in the tidal buffer except for removal of a cluster of shrubs where the new septic will be constructed.

The new home will be moved 3 feet further from the creek. The septic will be a standard Enviroseptic system and the leach field has been moved out of the tidal buffer. The driveway and patio will be constructed with pervious pavers. This will reduce the impervious coverage on the lot from 4.2% currently to 3.7%. The impervious area in the tidal buffer will be reduced from 14.6% currently to 11.5%. There is a stormwater management plan that redirects roof runoff to the front (street side) of the house and eventually captures it in a large rain garden. The project will meet FEMA requirements for the AE Zone. An existing barbeque structure on the edge of the creek will be replaced with a fire pit of a similar size surrounded by a pervious paver patio.

The property has 400 feet of frontage on Sagamore Creek, an important tidal river. Currently the lawn extends to the wall that borders the creek. There is minimal vegetation along the lawn/creek interface. There is evidence in several places of erosion of the lawn behind the wall.

The RCC discussed with the owners and their representatives the benefit of planting native plants along the edge of the lawn and the wall. The owners voiced their desire to keep the area as lawn so that their view of Sagamore Creek remains totally unobstructed. Member McFarland pointed out that low-growing plants would not materially affect the view and would help prevent erosion of the soil behind the wall. Member Garvan noted that the plants would aid in intercepting runoff and contaminants before they could reach the creek. The roots would help bind the soil and uptake some of the moisture. Mr. Siler mentioned that he and his wife are marine biologists and are very environmentally conscientious.

The Conservation Commission recommended that a buffer of native plants be installed along the entire creek frontage. The owners were concerned about the expense. The RCC recognized the expense and suggested that a planting plan be developed and implemented over a three year period. The recommended native plantings should be 10 feet deep with an average 7 feet in depth with a minimum of three feet. The area which curves along the creek has experienced the most erosion and should be planted to a depth of 10 feet.

4:45 pm: 112 Perkins Road, Tax Map 052 Lot 177, Owners Melissa & Kevin Janvrin

Present: Owners Kevin and Melissa Janvrin and Patrick Seekamp, CWS.

The Conservation Commission visited 112 Perkins Road to evaluate the demolition of an existing home and the construction of a new home within the 75 foot wetland buffer on the property. The new home will be a 30' x 50' house and will be entirely in the wetland buffer as is the current structure. The roof runoff will be dealt with by a crushed stone drip edge around the building. The existing shed will be removed. The owners will install a silt sock along the edge of the wetland during construction. After construction they will plant blueberry bushes on the edge of the lawn. The new driveway will be further from the wetland and will be pervious.

Mr. Seekamp pointed out the plant species in the wetland and the edge of the wetland. There are many invasive species which the owners will try to eradicate over time. There is a concrete pad at the southeast end of the lawn that they would like to remove. The RCC suggested that it be removed by hand since it is in the buffer and at the wetland edge. If that is too difficult, the owners will contact the RCC for permission to use equipment. There are some large arborvitae trees along the eastern edge of the property which the owners would like to partially remove. They would like to cut the tops of the dominant stems to get them out of the utility wires and allow more sunlight and space.

The RCC doesn't see the need for native plants other than the blueberries since the edge of the lawn is already thickly vegetated. There is no objection to cutting back the arborvitae as proposed. There were no objections to the project as proposed.

Member Garvan moved that the site walk meetings be adjourned, Member Grote seconded.

Chair King adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk