

## **RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Site Walk Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by Chair King at 2:00 pm.

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

**2:00 pm: 1090 Washington Road, Tax Map 6, Lot 28, Owner: Independence Farm, LLC**  
Present: Hadley Benneyan, representing the owner.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 1090 Washington Road to monitor compliance with the Conservation Easement on the property. The Easement is quite restrictive and any deviation from its must be with the permission of the Grantee – the Rye Conservation Commission.

The RCC members walked the trail at the back of the property and noticed that some cutting of small trees and shrubs. This is in violation of Section II (6). However it appeared to be part of normal trail maintenance of trees or limbs that had blown down or were leaning across the trail.

A section of pasture has been converted to a large vegetable garden at the southern end of the pastured area. This is allowable as a permitted use under Section III (3) since it is an agricultural use. However it appears that some forested area has been cut. This is not permitted under the Easement. There is considerable dumping of cut and bulldozed trees and shrubs in the forested area to the south of the garden. There is also metal debris dumped there. This dumping is prohibited in Section II (3) of the Easement. Invasive plants are encroaching along the forest border. These should be treated and controlled.

In the area beyond the barn and likely past the building envelope, several violations are occurring. There are large piles of manure and sawdust. There are large piles of scrap wood. There is a large pile of topsoil. It is apparent that much of this is recent. These are all violations of Section II (3).

The members felt that these violations should be acknowledged and addressed over time. The RCC would like to visit the property periodically to monitor the progress of the removal of prohibited substances and the control of invasives. It is within our rights as Grantee under the Conservation Easement Sections IV and V.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk