

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2019

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

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

4:30 pm: 175 Harbor Road, Tax Map 9.2, Lot 22, Owner: Bruce Valley

Present: Owner Bruce Valley

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 175 Harbor Road to evaluate an application to repair and replace an existing seawall. Mr. Valley explained that winter storm surges had breached his seawall and torn apart sections of the revetment. Stones from the wall and other debris were moved onto his lawn; parts of the lawn were eroded and a large hole near the dock developed. Another hole was created by erosive surges in the middle section of the wall. Several pieces of landscaping, including several rosa ragosa plants, were washed inland over his driveway.

Peter Rowell, Rye Building Department, had visited the site and informed Mr. Valley that the new seawall could not be as high as the boulders that were placed near the dock as a temporary repair. The new seawall should be no higher than the neighboring was at 169 Harbor Road.

The RCC members present discussed the value of installing numerous deep rooted plants to stabilize the soil next to the revetment. In fact, a section of older and thicker rosa ragosa plants on the Valley property had survived and had held the soil in place along that section of wall. The rosa ragosa plantings at 169 Harbor Road were more numerous and were planted in a wider swath and they survived the storms and kept the soil in place.

The RCC had no objection to the repair and replacement of the seawall so long as it conformed to the directives of the Rye Building Department. The Conservation Commission members recommended that Mr. Valley plant native plants from the NH DES guide at a greater width than previously to help stabilize the soil against future storm surges.

BILLS: The members present voted 6-0 to pay an outstanding bill for Charles Moreno for preparing the new Town Forest Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk