

## **RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Site Walk Minutes  
Friday, August 28, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Chair McFarland at 1:00 pm.

RCC members present at the site walks unless otherwise noted: Chair Suzanne McFarland; Members Susan Shepcaro, Mike Garvan, and Heather Reed.

### **1:00 pm: 18 Fern Avenue, Tax Map 11 Lot 109, Owner: David White**

Present: David White, owner.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 18 Fern Avenue to assess a permit requesting to cut 13 trees greater than 4.5" diameter at 4.5 ft. high on the property. The property has a small wet area shown on a plat plan done by Millennium Engineering in 2019. That plan delineates a "wet area to be confirmed by a wetland scientist". This area receives the discharge from a culvert under the driveway that drains a couple of abutting properties.

Mr. White would like to remove the trees to open up the area and let more light in. A couple of the trees marked for removal have multiple stems and as such are more vulnerable. The commission members present were unsure of how the wet area should be categorized and wanted to refer back to whatever documentation exists. The RCC will look into this documentation before it makes any recommendations.

### **1:30 pm: 1090 Washington Road, Tax Map 6 Lot 28, Owner: Independence Farm, LLC**

Present: David Tromp, owner.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 1090 Washington Road to assess whether a recent jumping event hosted by Driftwood Equestrian had damaged the fields on the property. About 25 riders participated in the event. David Tromp showed the RCC where the trucks and trailers had parked and how the traffic was routed on the farm. The trucks came in the main farm entrance and then drove along the woods line and pulled in head first. When they exited, they drove straight ahead and drove above the new jump ring and exited on the main farm road.

The RCC members didn't see any damage to the fields although the summer has been exceedingly dry and the fields were firm. It appeared to be a successful, safely conducted event.

### **2:00 pm: 30 LaMer Drive, Tax Map 13 Lot 40, Owners: Charles & Lindsay Benyon**

Present: Chuck and Lindsay Benyon. Member Reed had to leave before the site walk and Vice Chair King joined the walk.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 30 LaMer Drive to evaluate the plantings which had been established as a condition of the Rye ZBA Notice of Decision. The

Benyons contracted Piscataqua Landscaping to install native plants along the stone wall which borders Awcomin Marsh. The plantings consisted of several species of native grasses planted to a depth of 5 feet along the entire border. Most of the planted area had been cut around the plants by a string trimmer although a section in the middle and the northernmost edge has been left to grow. Mr. Benyon explained that he didn't know what the RCC expected, so he provided different conditions to compare. The northernmost edge at the corner of the stone wall had grown back to a variety of native plants dominated by juvenile cattails. This growth appeared to have out-competed the new plantings which had died. The rest of the new plants were healthy and had a high survival rate.

The RCC asked Mr. Benyon what species were planted and he was able to recall Cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*) but not the other grasses. The commission asked him if he could contact Piscataqua Landscaping and find out the other species so the RCC could insure that the plantings were native as required. The plantings appeared to be sufficient but the RCC wished to know what all the grasses were before making a final determination about the work.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm by Chair McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk