

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by Chair Suzanne McFarland.

RCC members present at the site walks: Chair Suzanne McFarland, Vice Chair Sally King; Member Mike Garvan. Member Susan Shepcaro joined the site walk at 550 Washington Road.

3:00 pm: 3 Brackett Road, Tax Map 22 Lot 72, Owner: Estate of Grace Junkins

Present: Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering, representing the owners.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 3 Brackett Road on September 22, 2021 to look at some trees in the wetland buffer that the owners wished to cut. Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering, was at the second site walk and clarified which of the marked trees were in the 100 foot wetland buffer for Berry's Brook.

Nine trees were marked with tape or paint indicating which trees the owners wished to remove. Four large white pines were in the buffer and threatened the house; the RCC approves of cutting those trees for safety reasons. There was a large Norway maple in the buffer which is not a threat and which the RCC recommended be left uncut and Mr. Riker agreed. There was a dead pin cherry near the middle of the buffer which can be removed. There is also a dead snag in the back yard which can be removed. Some of the flagged trees were outside the buffer and the owners can cut those at their discretion. All of the trees which are cut in the buffer must have their roots remain in order to stabilize the soil.

The removal of the large white pines will result in less water uptake in the buffer. To mitigate this impact the Conservation Commission recommends:

- 1) Four native trees should be planted in the buffer as a partial replacement for the cut white pines.
- 2) There should be no cutting of trees of any size in the first fifty feet of the buffer from Berry's Brook.
- 3) No chips should be spread in the buffer.
- 4) Treatment and removal of the invasive plants on site is strongly recommended.

3:30 pm: 1359 Ocean Boulevard, Tax Map 174 Lot 31 Owners: Joseph Bezanson & Chelsea Ladd

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 1359 Ocean Boulevard on September 22, 2021 to look at some trees in the tidal buffer that the owners wished to cut.

The two large pine trees in the front yard are in the 100 foot tidal buffer and do not pose a threat to the property but removal of these trees would affect the view. Since Route 1A is between the

house front yard and the ocean, the removal of the two tall pines would not materially affect the groundwater or flow into the Atlantic. Consequently the RCC does not have a problem with the removal of the two trees as long as two native trees are planted in their place. The commission believes the Mugo pine should remain.

4:00pm: 550 Washington Road Map 012 Lot 045, Owner: Town of Rye

Present: Abutter Todd Cronin

The RCC visited the Rye Town Forest at 550 Washington Road to assess the restoration work that was required due to a case of timber trespass by Steve Gray, a renter in a home that abuts the town forest. Mr. Gray was required to replace the 13 live trees he had cut with 13 native trees in approximately the same places. He was also supposed to remove the large piles of brush and slash he had created.

The inspection revealed that Mr. Gray had planted 7 native trees, not the 13 required. It also appeared he had not removed any of the brush piles. The trees were supposed to have been planted by August 15, 2021 and the brush piles were to have been removed by September 15, 2021. The members present decided they would consult the attorney for the Rye Conservation Commission for advice on how to compel Mr. Gray to comply with the restoration conditions.

Chair McFarland presented a bill from Eversource for \$19.73 for the Goss Farm. All members voted to pay the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm by Chair McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk