

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes
Monday, March 14, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chair McFarland.

4:00 pm: 46 Pollock Drive, Tax Map 231, Lot 20, Sheryl and Jack Barnes, owners.

Present: Mike Garvan, Susan Shepcaro, Sally King, Karen Oliver, Danna Truslow, Suzanne McFarland

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) visited 46 Pollock Drive to assess a proposed project to add a patio and steps in the large backyard. The proposed patio will be constructed of permeable pavers and the steps will be stone. The property is adjacent to a non-tidal freshwater wetland requiring a 100 ft buffer. Most of the patio and all the steps will be located between the 75 ft buffer and the 100 ft buffer. A Rose of Sharon and a yew bush will be removed to make room for the proposed patio. An invasive Barberry bush will also be removed. The backyard is relatively flat near the house, then slopes steeply to another flat area that continues to the edge of the wetland. The steps will be located in a disturbed area currently used as a path to the lower portion of the yard. The property has multiple areas of ledge throughout. The back area is primarily natural. To protect the nontidal freshwater wetland the RCC requests that native plantings be installed between the two ledge outcroppings near the edge of the wetland to a depth of 5 ft. In addition, the lower area should not be mowed more than two or three times per year. The RCC suggests that, to help mitigate runoff down the slope, native plantings be installed around the step area after the steps are completed.

The Conservation Commission approves of the project subject to the following recommendations:

- 1) The lower yard area be mowed no more than two or three times per year.
- 2) A 5 foot deep vegetative border of native plants is planted between the two ledge outcroppings along the edge of the lower backyard adjacent to the wetland.
- 3) The plants should have an 85% survival rate after one year.

4:30 pm: 705 Brackett Road, Tax Map 017, Lot 034-002, Joel and Lauren Feid, owners

Present: Mike Garvan, Jeff Gardner, Suzanne McFarland, Susan Shepcaro

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) visited 705 Brackett Road to assess a proposed maintenance project on a stacked rock wall along the front edge of the property. There is a stone retaining wall directly in front of the home and a roughly maintained stacked rock wall continuing along the edge of the property to the boundary. Mr. Feid proposes to rebuild and repair the stacked rock wall using existing rocks. No additional rock will be brought in. No additional material of any sort will be added to the wall. The repaired wall will be the same

height as the existing stacked rock wall. The wall will be hand built. A small machine may be used, in the road right of way only, to move rock from place to place. There will be no change to the existing rocks on either side of the culvert or to the large rock over the culvert. There should be spaces left between rocks to allow animal passage, especially near the brook, which crosses under Brackett Road.

The Conservation Commission approves of the project subject to the following recommendations:

- 1) Existing rocks to be used; no additional rocks added
- 2) No additional material of any sort to be added to the wall
- 3) No alteration will be made to the rocks on either side of the culvert or to the rock over the top of the culvert
- 4) Machinery, if used, will be confined to the road right of way

4:50-5:00 pm: 640 Long John Road, Tax Map 16, Lot 144, Victor Odryna Living Trust, Victor Odryna, Trustee Regina A. Odryna Living Trust, Regina A. Odryna, Trustee, owners

Present: Mike Garvan, Danna Truslow, Susan McFarland, Susan Shepcaro

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 640 Long John Road on March 14, 2022 to look at a proposal to remove several large trees and limb several other trees on the property.

The owners were present and had completed a tree cutting permit with a map of the trees to be limbed and/or removed. Two of the large trees were threatening the barn and were within the 75 foot wetland buffer from a large pond on the lot. The majority of the trees to be removed were in a non-jurisdictional wetland of less than one (1) acre. The wetlands were mapped by Luke Hurley, CWS and the trees were flagged by Knowles Tree Service. There is a long, deep drainage ditch running along the driveway with two-directional flow heading toward a culvert near Long John Road and toward the pond.

The RCC had concerns that the drainage ditch might be part of the wetland that encompasses the pond. However, the drainage ditch does not extend to the pond because there is a three (3) foot soil barrier between the pond and the drainage ditch. Members Truslow and Garvan did not believe that this barrier would be breached during storm flows. The area near and behind the drainage ditch is heavily wooded and most of the trees to be removed are dead or unhealthy. A couple of live trees that are a safety hazard to the driveway are marked for removal.

The Conservation Commission does not object to the tree cutting as long as only the trees flagged are cut and no mechanical equipment enters the wetland or the wetland buffer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Chair McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Shepcaro, Clerk