

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Friday, September 23, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm by Chair McFarland.

2:15 pm: 300 Pioneer Road, Tax Map 24, Lot 111, Owner: Linda Carroll

Present: Susan Shepcaro, Karen Oliver, Kara Campbell, Jaci Grote, Danna Truslow, Suzanne McFarland.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 300 Pioneer Road on September 23, 2022 after neighbors reported that the owner was adding fill in the wetland buffer associated with Seavey Creek. The Town of Rye Building Department issued a Stop Work Order on July 26, 2022 and a Notice of Violation on July 28, 2022 to halt all work on the property.

The RCC is familiar with this property due to working with the previous owner on the several projects he completed during his ownership. All the buildings and most of the property is in the 100-foot tidal buffer zone. There is also a freshwater wetland on the property which has a 75-foot protective buffer for some portion of the property.

The current owner, Linda Carroll and her partner, Bill Riley, have covered large portions of the freshwater wetland buffer area with large pieces of cardboard which have then been covered with fill. This was done to kill poison ivy.

RCC members found fill to the depth of four to six (4 to 6) inches in some places. The cardboard topped with fill was found all along the edge of the freshwater wetland. RCC also observed fill dirt reaching up the collar of trees in the area. Leaves had also been dumped in the freshwater wetland area. RCC members discussed other options for poison ivy control and/or removal with Ms. Carroll and Mr. Riley. The possibility of spraying with chrysanthemum oil was mentioned. Hand removal is also permitted.

RCC noted that the 2017 Board of Adjustment Notice of Decision states that ...[T]he generator and propane tanks be located between the shed and the garage to keep them out of the undisturbed buffer. It was noted at the site walk that the owner has installed a generator and a propane tank on the SIDE of the garage.

The owner has placed wooden shipping pallets on the marsh, creating a raised walkway to Seavey Creek. RCC members counted fifty-nine (59) pallets in the tidal buffer zone. The pallets extend for approximately 180 yards, starting from the area behind the house, passing through the marsh grass, to Seavey Creek.

RCC members noticed phragmites on the property and advised that the owner could have them professionally treated.

The RCC believes that this property must be restored to the condition it was in, prior to purchase by the current owner.

The Rye Conservation Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. All fill in the 100-foot tidal buffer and the 75-foot freshwater wetland buffer to be removed.
2. All cardboard in the wetland buffer to be removed.
3. All tarps in the wetland buffer to be removed.
4. All leaves dumped in the wetland buffer to be removed.
5. All areas in the wetland buffer to be left natural after removal of items 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.
6. All pallets to be removed from the Seavey Creek 100-foot tidal buffer zone. Pallets to be stored out of both the 75-foot freshwater wetland buffer and the 100-foot tidal buffer.
7. Owners to obtain permits for the propane tank and generator if that has not been done.
8. All tools, hoses, storage containers etc. which are stored behind the garage in the 75-foot wetland buffer to be moved out of the buffer.
9. The front area of the property to be seeded with a native conservation seed mix. Native trees and bushes may also be planted in this area.
10. The front area of the property to be a low mow/no mow area. Mowing may be done once in the spring, if needed and once in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Chair McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shepcaro, Clerk