

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2020

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

RCC members present at the first two site walks: Suzanne McFarland, Chair; Sally King, Vice Chair; Mike Garvan, Clerk; Members Danna Truslow, Heather Reed and Susan Shepcaro.

4:00 pm: 4 Washington Road, Tax Map 013 Lot 040, Owners: Jay Mason & Jackie Doherty

Present: Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering and the owners.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 4 Washington Road to review a project to demolish an existing residence and construct a new one on a lot almost entirely in either the wetland or tidal buffers. The owners had changed the building plan and footprint the day of the site walk so the RCC had no chance to review the new proposal. Mr. Riker had not seen the new plan either so couldn't comment or answer questions. Jay Mason had taped off the footprints of the earlier plan and the new plan and tried to show the RCC where the differences existed.

The commission members were frustrated and disappointed that the change was made at the last minute and that no engineering plans were available. Members present expressed their aggravation to the owners and noted that this is the third site walk to this property, each time with a new plan. The members noted that this site walk was a waste of their time and that the owners could not expect another site walk until a final plan was presented.

4:45 pm: Wentworth by the Sea Country Club, 60 Wentworth Road, Tax Map 24 Lot 61-26

Present: Bob Diadati, WBTSCC, Chad Mitchell, WBTSCC, Jason Bastille, WBTSCC; Adele Mattson, Normandeau Associates; Corey Colwell, TF Moran.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club to review a project on the 3rd and 9th Holes to build a retaining wall to keep the salt marsh on Witch Creek from encroaching further onto the fairways. The marsh has been flooding over time and has rendered the marsh side of the fairway into a wetland. Corey Colwell presented and explained the history of the two holes and the conversion of the fairways into wetland and marsh which then become the property of the State of NH.

The proposed project calls for the construction of a 499.5 foot retaining wall on the creek side of the marsh. This will require 2 feet of fill and there would be 3 feet of reveal on the creek side of the wall and 1 foot of reveal on the fairway side. There is both salt marsh and a freshwater jurisdictional wetland on the project as delineated by Adele Mattson. NH DES is aware of the project. Because of the size of the disturbance, NH DES requires that there be extensive mitigation. This mitigation would consist of paying into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund in a sum of approximately \$50,000.

The RCC members present discussed the impact of such a project and noted that they would look for a wetland mitigation project in Rye that could use the funds. However, the RCC appreciated the addition of such a large sum being added to the ARM Fund should they not find a local project.

5:30 pm: 44 Pioneer Road, Tax Map 24 Lot 100, Owner: Carrie Olson

Present: RCC Members Sally King, Jeff Gardner, Susan Shepcaro and Mike Garvan. Owner Carrie Olson.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 44 Pioneer Road to review a project to move a shed that is in the tidal wetland buffer to the other side of the property. The new shed location is partially in the 75 foot wetland buffer. The new shed location would be off the lawn and in the edge of the woods. There are invasives such as buckthorn in the woods which Ms. Olson said she would remove.

She would also like to extend an existing patio using pervious pavers and add a hot tub. A portion of the extension would be in the 75 foot wetland buffer. Two propane tanks would be added next to the house and in the 100 foot tidal buffer.

There is a sitting area overlooking Witch Creek which has been established by the owner and her family. The RCC members present recommended that native plants be added along the property edge to provide infiltration and filtering of possible contaminants before they reach the marsh. A native groundcover in the sitting area would help choke out invasives and provide erosion control. The RCC had no objections to the proposed plans for the lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm by Vice Chair King.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis P. (Mike) Garvan II, Clerk