

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Site Walk Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM by Vice Chair Sally King

RCC members present at the site walk: Mike Garvin, Jeff Gardner, Joe Tucker, Sally King, Paula Mahoney

8:32 a.m. - 140 Brackett Road, Tax Map 22, Lot 96, Owner: Taylor Schwartz

Present: Owner Taylor Schwartz, Land Use Assistant Kara Campbell, Hugh Lee

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at 140 Brackett Road on March 5, 2024, to look at proposed tree removals. There is a freshwater forested shrub wetland in the northeast corner of the lot.

One tree fell during the recent windstorm and almost fell on the house. The homeowner is concerned about the others. The homeowner wishes to remove ten (10) trees along the northern property line.

It is unclear if the subject trees are in the 75-foot freshwater wetland buffer. The Town of Rye GIS wetland overlay doesn't show a wetland on the property, but there are sections of the lot that are wet, and there is a ditch that Mr. Schwartz said was for sump pump water discharge. He also indicated that there was additional flow in the ditch during wet periods, so it is likely that the trees are in the buffer.

The RCC agrees that the flagged trees are threatening the shed and house and should be removed for safety purposes.

These are large pines which can uptake as much as 100 gallons of water during the peak growing season. The removal of these trees will result in the property becoming wetter over time.

For this reason, the Rye Conservation Commission recommends that Mr. Schwartz replace each tree that is removed with two trees with a 2" caliper to uptake water in the area. This should aid in keeping the affected area less wet.

The Rye Conservation Commission supports the proposed tree removals subject to the following recommendations:

1. All stumps must remain.
2. Twenty (20) 2" caliper trees be planted as mitigation and to ensure continued uptake of water.
3. The RCC believes that an 85% or greater survival rate of the planted vegetation adequate.

4. Trees are removed within the next month, prior to bird nesting season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM by Vice Chair King.