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Rye Conservation Commission
Rye Town Hall
10 Central Road
Rye, NH 03870

Dear RCC Board Members,

Rye, August 28, 2022

On August 11th, 2022, Bill Nichols, Senior Ecologist, Botanist, Natural Heritage Bureau, NH Division of Forests and Lands, came to conduct field work at Locke Pond Atlantic White Cedar Swamp. I have been in touch with Bill Nichols since May 2021, and this after “unearthing” the 1978 Rye Master Plan that led me to discover and learn about Rye’s rare Atlantic White Cedar swamps and communities.

I have forwarded most of my recent correspondence with Bill Nichols to Sally King, and most of prior correspondence from 2021 with RCC Chair, Suzanne McFarland.

I have included at the bottom of this correspondence, an email from Bill Nichols that he sent to me on August 11th, 2022, after conducting his field work at Locke Pond Atlantic White Cedar Swamp, including pictures that he took. This constitutes his initial information/results; however, he plans to write a report in 2023 for the Natural Heritage Bureau and share a copy with RCC.

Bill Nichols is also planning to come to Fairhill Marsh to map the AWC at that location. The Natural Heritage Bureau’s last observation dates in their database for both locations (Locke Pond and Fairhill Marsh) dates from 1990 and 1993 respectively, as I was informed back in May 2021.

Bill Nichols stated the following in a prior email to me dated August 8th, 2022 after I mentioned that the NRI (2021) did not make mention of the extensive AWC ecosystem/communities in Rye: “Because AWC swamps are rare types in NH, they very likely need to be added to Rye’s NRI because of their rare and exemplary conservation status.”

In addition, RCC organized a “Trailgate” at Cedar Run Woods back in June, which led to an exchange of emails regarding featuring a walk at the Jim Raynes Forest to explore the AWC swamp. Sally King stated that this would be a great idea, however, that the trails were not yet marked on that property. I would encourage the RCC to sponsor such a walk (after proper marking) in collaboration with the organizers of the Rye’s 400th Anniversary.

Email from Bill Nichols, dated August 11th, 2022, copied below, with initial report and other details. In addition, it appears as per Bill Nichols' response to one of my questions about the age of the AWC that "I am guessing the older trees in the Locke Pond area are probably no more than 100 years old (stands with larger crowns in aerial below). Finer crowned stands were likely logged more recently (guessing 50 years ago or so). "

Hi Dominique,

Thanks for all your legwork getting permissions and identifying access points. I parked in Elsie's driveway today and headed south on the ROW just to the west on Grove Road.

The survey went well (see attached photos). Guessing the AWC swamp acreage has doubled compared to what we had mapped in our database. Stand ages ranged from young/maturing to maturing. Cover of invasives plants were a bit discouraging in the swamp, especially glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) (e.g., see attached DSC00485; most of the shrubs in the photo are glossy buckthorn). Glossy buckthorn is not worth trying to manage here because it is too widespread in both uplands and wetlands in the larger area.

I'll process the information at some point in 2023 and send to the RCC:

- Shapefiles of GPS points and the newly mapped extent of the AWC swamp
- Field form with natural community (GPS referenced) and plant species data
- Invasive plant species documented during the survey (GPS referenced)
- Photos (GPS referenced) taken during the survey

Let me know when you have a picture of the trailhead at Fairhill Marsh with the two parking slots and directions to the trailhead. If time allows, I'll try to get to that site as well.

Best,
Bill

Regards,
Dominique Winebaum

CC: Select Board
CC: Rye's 400th Anniversary Committee





