

Rye Conservation Commission Sept 8, 2022 Meeting  
Rye Civic League Notes

Sept. 8 Draft Official Meeting Minutes [CLICK HERE](#)

Video Stream Sept. 8 Meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

**Highlights:**

Rye's rare Atlantic White Cedar groves between (South, Grove, and Love Lane) have expanded by 50% since the 1990's according to a preliminary report by NH Natural Heritage Bureau

Focus of Rye Water District proposed water source exploration is at the Brown Lane Farm conservation lands.

Conservation Commission will budget for a license to access GIS to include "missing parcels" in Town GIS maps and for manipulating layers. New Land Use Assistant has the background to do this.

**60 Causeway Road Tax Map 2 Lot 79**

Owner: Sally & Anthony Manfredi

Ambit Engineering – John Chagnon

Patio, hardscape, pool, retaining wall, arbors, walkway, stairs, plantings

Variances requested: RBVD §8.3.4.B.1.8 Wetland Buffer & §2.1.28 Side Yard setback

The home is under construction. The pool had been previous "taken off the table" when the project as initially approved. It is 7 x 13' saltwater pool 4' deep and would be in the freshwater wetland buffer in an area previously approved as "appurtenant" to the house and patio. There would be no backwashing. Included would be an extended retaining wall so that it remains at the elevation of the driveway, new extended paver walkway and landscaping. Owners are also proposing that the driveway now be pervious (not included in initial approval) and stated the wall would not add a lot to the impervious coverage. A site walk was scheduled.

**5 Whitehorse Drive, Tax Map 011, Lot -02**

Owner: Patrick Donnelly

West Environmental – Mark West

Attorney Tim Phoenix

Acreage

Variances requested: 190-3.1.F for working in wetlands to restore, 190-3.1.H (1), (b), (c) for pool patio, and related improvements within wetland buffer

The applicant had previously been before the commission for the pool and restoring wetlands and had offered to gift or provide an easement to the Conservation Commission for 3-5 acres of the back of the lot. The CC prefers it be gifted. Motion was made to recommend the pool and

buffer restoration contingent on the gifting of 3-5 acres contingent to CC land. Vote 6-1 in favor.

### **377 Brackett Road – fence, conservation easement land**

A privacy fence was installed, some of it conservation land blocking view of that land. Owner has agreed to take the fence (1 section) down and done so. Some questions as to if one section is enough. The survey has been obtained and CC members will visit property.

### **Presentation by Wright Pierce Engineering regarding Rye Water District water resource exploration**

Cedar Run Well is down due to quality issues and the District is down 1 million gallons per day. Only 2 wells are currently online so the District is seeking new water sources. Focus in on the new Brown Lane Farm conservation property (purchased with water rights) with a geophysical study showing 3 potential bed rock well locations for one well preferably two with a backup location the ideal scenario.

Various impact studies would have to be conducted and any drilling would be conducted to reduce impacts. Any proposals would have to be submitted to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) who holds the easement to the property. A site walk to visit the existing Garland, Bailey Brook, and Cedar Run Wells was scheduled.

### **ArcGIS Town GIS missing conservation parcels**

The RCC will budget \$700 for the additional license to add the parcels and manipulate map layers. Land Use Assistant Campbell has the background to do this work.

### **18 Whitehorse – water issue**

Plans for the subdivision will be reviewed to see if there was an enforceable way via the plans that call out how the issue was to be addressed. Planning Board had recently looked at the issue.

### **Letter, Dominique Winebaum, Atlantic White Cedars, Bill Nichols – Natural Heritage Bureau ([CLICK HERE](#))**

Ms. Winebaum took the initiative to contact NH Natural Heritage Bureau and Senior Ecologist Bill Nichols to see if he could map the status of Rye's rare Atlantic White Cedars (AWC) as no survey had been done since the 1990's. She presented her efforts at the meeting. She assisted Mr. Nichols with access to the groves between Grove Road, Love Lane, and South Road for his mapping.

Ms. Winebaum stated that she received an initial report from Mr. Nichols, which she forwarded to the RCC.

The Atlantic White Cedars in that area have expanded by fifty percent. Atlantic White Cedars can be 400 years old; however, the oldest tree in the area is 100 years old, at the most, in this forest, due to logging that was taking place fifty years ago. The White Cedars are now spreading, as there hasn't been any logging in fifty years. Mr. Nichols full report will be done in 2023 and will be shared with the RCC. Mr. Nichols will also be mapping the Atlantic White Cedar at Fairhill Marsh.

Ms. Winebaum also suggested it would be nice to feature the AWC at Rye 400 and took Andy Stecher, Chair of 400<sup>th</sup> Committee to see them off Signature Drive. Access is not easy. The RCC is planning a trail once its location can be determined.

**Letter, Dominique Winebaum, RZP update in NPS regarding 2015 Wetland Ordinance - Letter to PB Attorney Maher ([CLICK HERE](#))**

Ms. Winebaum said the 2015 proposed Wetland Ordinance was not approved by the Planning Board at the time. At the time, PB Chair Epperson said the Planning Board would revisit it in the future but haven't.

Chair McFarland stated that it is being revisited. Pat Losik, the current planning board chair, has said that they are doing a lot of revisiting of items. When the Rules and Regulations Committee gets to the wetlands piece again, Ms. Losik is going to include a member or two of the Conservation Commission in that process.

Ms. Winebaum stated that as of early September there haven't been public meetings about Zoning Ordinances updates although there has been a 2 hour non public meeting about them.