

Rye Conservation Commission
July 2025 Rye Civic League Notes

Highlight

Conservation Commission voted (3-2) to recommend a Rye Beach project with approx. 18,000 square feet of wetlands and wetlands buffer impact that will require 922 cubic yards of fill (Editor's Note: equivalent of 65-90 dump truck loads).

July 10 Draft Meeting Minutes [CLICK HERE](#)

July 10 Meeting Video [CLICK HERE](#)

July 14 Draft Site Walk Minutes [CLICK HERE](#)

20 Causeway Road

Owner: Michael Coutu

The Commission visited the site to evaluate “after the fact” driveway construction, deck replacement and drainage work, as well as a proposal to raise the rear lawn in the wetland and tidal buffers about 2 ¾ feet with 18,000 square feet of wetlands and wetlands buffer impact. The project will require 922 cubic yards of fill (*Editor's Note: equivalent to 65-90 dump truck loads*).

Almost the entire property is in an estuarine and marine wetland, or tidal marsh, as well as freshwater marsh to the east and south of the home with 100-foot buffers, extending almost through the entire property.

A sloping “living shoreline” of boulders will retain the fill with native plantings (not shown on current plans) designed to mitigate the effects of sea level rise. As waters rise the property owner is seeking to “protect his asset”.

The property is challenged by sea level rise and drainage to and from the golf course. Added unpermitted stonework at the culvert to the Abeniqui CC will be removed and the area reworked.

Conservation Commission voted (3-2) to recommend the project as presented with those voting against saying filling wetlands and wetland buffer set a “dangerous precedent”.

65 Parsons Road

Owner: Janet Lombardo

Variances: 190-2.2.E and 5.12.B(7): Side Setback, 3.1.G.2.H.2(A)(B)(E)[2] and 5.12.B.3(A): 75' freshwater wetland buffer, 5.12.C(1)(2):

Replacement of a dwelling, driveway and septic system with about half the property in the wetland buffer. The footprint of the dwelling is proposed to increase from 796 sq feet to 2089 square feet with impervious coverage increasing from 21.5% to 29.2%.

While concerns were expressed about the increase in footprint the RCC felt the proposed improvement of crushed stone drip edge, new septic, and “robust” planting plan were improvement and supports the project as presented.

55 Harbor Road

Seacoast Property Holdings, LLC, Wendy Cabral

The previous approval was to repair/replace an existing stone revetment in the 100-foot tidal wetland buffer.

The proposed amendment reduces the overall size of the revetment by 502 square feet, which will be converted to lawn, as well as the addition of a 314 square foot pervious patio on the southwestern side of the property. The overall reduced impact is 288 square feet. The Rye Conservation Commission supports the amended project as proposed

500 Washington Road (Town Hall Annex) Amendment

In an update, it appears the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD is the holder of conservation easement on part of the property) will be in favor of still including the existing septic in the easement.

The RCC adopted the following proposed amendment and authorized the Chair to execute when (and if) the RCCD agrees.

The leach field and septic system as presently exists, so long as it remains functional, shall be entitled to remain on the property subject to the following conditions:
a. The leach field and septic system may be maintained as may be necessary to serve the existing building on the property

New Conservation Commission Site Walk Procedures

1. Site walks will now occur the Tuesday before regular meetings. All applications will be subject to site walks and will be posted as public meetings. No votes will be taken during sites walks (as previously sometimes the case and aquorum will not be required
2. At the regular meeting ,applicants will make their formal presentations and Commission members who attended the site walk will report.

Goss Farm

1. The farm's blueberry crop will be donated to Gather food party who will pick and wash the crop for distribution.
2. Swallows in the barn- discussion of an alternative "barn like" new nesting location based on a member's research. Another member, after talking to Audubon Society and UNH , stated the consensus was that swallows presented no danger and the RCC should look for a solution to segregate and seal off the upper portion where they nest
3. It was agreed more information and research is required before making a decision

Town Forest Trail Relocation and Signage/Kiosks

The Green Trail will be relocated off private property and a route has been mapped out and cleared. Due to wet areas, bog bridges are needed in a few places and DES permits secured before the trail can be used.

A resident has donated \$5000 for trails signage. A first kiosk will go up at the entrance to the Town Forest. The entire project of signage and bog bridges is estimated at \$15,000. A motion to approve the project, referring to the project "as defined in the RCC SharePoint file was unanimously approved.