



RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03870

February 2, 2018

Richard Ellsmore, State Conservationist USDA-NRCS
273 Locust Street, Suite 2D
Dover, NH 03820

RE: Brown WRE 2018 application

Dear Mr. Ellsmore:

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) is writing to you as a partner for the proposed NRCS-WRE conservation project located on West Road in Rye and North Hampton that includes approximately 81+/- acres, on Tax Map 6, lot 9 in Rye, and Map 16, lots 5, 6, 7 & 8 in North Hampton, owned by Patricia Brown.

The RCC recently approved providing up to \$40,000 from its conservation funds dedicated to vernal pool habitat to the mapping and yearly monitoring, invasive species estimations, restoration planning and assistance with implementation, and possible native plantings to enhance vernal pool habitats. The intention of these efforts are to assist the NRCS in the appropriate development and completion of habitat restoration practices at this site. The RCC will provide these funds to see this work is completed, providing this site is permanently conserved with funding and an easement from the NRC S-WRE program, and the land is then transferred to the Town of Rye, through its Conservation Commission.

The landowners have been interested in protecting this property for some time, and are hoping that during FY 2018 this project will indeed come to fruition. The property is very important for resource protection in both Rye and North Hampton, for vernal pool and other wetland habitats, and for water quality protection. This parcel sits within the Rye Water District Wellhead Protection Area, and is significant for the long term protection of our water quality. There are also three adjacent conserved parcels connected to this land, including over 120+/- acres in North Hampton.

This area supports tremendous riparian connectivity and a diverse wetland and upland wildlife corridor that includes Bailey's Brook. The Bailey Brook Watershed is located in both Rye and North Hampton, with Bailey's Brook, a little over 3 +/- miles that includes associated wetland and floodplain resources ending at Eel pond and the Atlantic Ocean. Habitats found within this watershed include a protected Atlantic white cedar swamp, abundant Palustrine forested wetlands, shrub-scrub, emergent and salt marsh wetlands and associated wetland buffers.

Due to the many diverse wetland habitats and ecologically significant reasons for this historic parcel to be permanently protected, the RCC is pleased to partner in this conservation project. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this property.

Sincerely,

Sally King, Chairman
Rye Conservation Commission
603-431-2127



RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03870

January 31, 2018

Richard Ellsmore, State Conservationist USDA-NRCS
273 Locust Street, Suite 2D
Dover, NH 03820

RE: Brown Wetland Restoration Easement (WRE) 2018 application — land transfer

Dear Mr. Ellsmore:

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) is writing to you as a partner for the proposed NRCSWRE conservation project located on West Road in Rye and North Hampton that includes approximately 80+/- acres, currently owned by Patricia Brown.

The RCC recently approved providing additional funds for restoration mapping and planning at this site, and to accept the land in fee if a conservation easement is placed by the NRCS through the WRE program. The RCC will assist the NRCS with mapping, monitoring, and natural resource management options and estimates to protect and restore critical vernal pool habitat. The RCC will complete a conceptual consultation with the Rye Planning Board in the near future to request that this land be considered a non-buildable parcel with appropriate access provided off of West Road, that will allow for future resource management needs and potential fire/rescue access. The RCC will work with the landowner through this process, and if deemed necessary by the Planning Board, will promote the sub-division of this newly created lot with a NRCS-WRE easement.

The landowner has been interested in protecting this property for some time, and are hoping that during FY 2018 this project will indeed come to fruition. The property is very important for resource protection in both Rye and North Hampton, for vernal pool and other wetland habitats, and for water quality protection as it sits in the Rye Water District Wellhead Protection Area.

There are also adjacent conserved parcels in both North Hampton and Rye, with additional walking trail access connections. With the diversity of wetland habitats, and by enhancing an existing open space greenway, the RCC is pleased to partner in protecting this historic parcel.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this property.

Sincerely,

Sally King, Chairman
Rye Conservation Commission
603-431-2127