

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of June 10, 2015
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Richard Luongo, Chair, Virginia Cookson, Bob Cronin, Keith Glidden, George Tarr.

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent

Others present:

David Rimmer, Director of Stewardship, ECGA

Paul and Ann Ricker

Scott McGinnis, contractor

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced that anyone recording the meeting should state that prior to the start of the Commission public meeting.

Notice of Intent

Off Asbury Street, Map 27 Lot 4

Construct boardwalk and observation deck in resource area on Essex County Greenbelt Association ("ECGA") land adjacent to 650 Asbury Street, the former Patton estate.

Mr. Luongo opened the public hearing. David Rimmer of ECGA presented the project. ECGA own the land where the work is proposed and they own conservation restrictions in the area as well. Mr. Rimmer described how the proposed boardwalk would use Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds. ECGA will hire the subcontractors and is general contractor for the project submitting invoices to CPC for reimbursement.

The boardwalk is 60' out to a 20' by 20' viewing platform that will have railings and meet building codes. The project is in wetland resource area and priority habitat so NOI was sent to Natural Heritage for their review. The NOI has not been recorded as received yet by DEP so there is no DEP file number. The ideal time to do the construction is later in the fall when water level should be lower. An estimated 20 support posts (to be driven 3' down manually) for the platform, walkway and deck are the only construction elements to come in contact with resource area. All other construction will occur above the resource area. The beginning of the boardwalk will be in upland for 10' to 15' with remainder projecting out over the resource area. A generator or battery powered tools will be used for installation.

Discussion addressed how water flow and river current is not expected in flood plain area. No concrete will be used for project. Decking planks could be spaced to allow proper light for vegetation beneath. Timeframe for the project is to complete it in 2015. NOI contains construction details on posts, headers, stringers, size of decking and railings. The boardwalk/platform would be used for short visits where users can walk out into the resource area and take in the view.

Discussion addressed how the project needs a DEP number and pre-construction inspection with Conservation Agent and building inspector (i.e., how materials will be staged/offloaded from

pick-up truck on farm road). A path will lead to the boardwalk with buckthorn trimmed before work begins. Work is not planned to deal with invasive species.

Keith Glidden moved to continue the hearing until June 24, 2015 at 7 p.m. Virginia Cookson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Determination

639 Essex Street

Construct single family dwelling, septic system and associated landscaping all work on undeveloped lot; all work outside of NBZ and NDZ

Paul and Ann Ricker, owners

Scott McGinnis, contractor

George Tarr recused himself since he is an abutter. Paul Ricker described how this is the remaining lot from a subdivision done 10 years ago. The original wetlands permits have lapsed so the owner is refilling to comply with the new more restrictive setback requirements to wetlands. Jim Hankin reported on site walk. The septic system is located outside of the Commission's jurisdiction. Limit of work will be the erosion control barrier.

Mr. Glidden moved to issue a Negative #3 Determination with condition that a survey plan identifying the No Disturb Zone will be filed; plan as described by Mr. McGinnis. Bob Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted 4-0.

Request for Determination

134 Echo Cove Road

New construction atop an existing foundation on lot adjacent to Chebacco Lake

Shawn and Martha Dodge; owners and applicants

Owners wish to repair part of house using Sono-tubes, rebuilding what is in place on existing footprint. A mini excavator on tracks will be used to dig holes for Sonotubes with as much backfill replaced as possible in a half a day's work. Conservation Agent will inspect site before work starts and once work is completed. The septic system is located outside of the Commission's jurisdiction.

Mr. Glidden moved to issue a Negative Determination with Conservation Agent to inspect before work starts and any removed soils will be stored away from the lake. Ms. Cookson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion

Discussion was about Ken Shedden at 59 School Street who accepted a great deal of material from water main replacement project from downtown to level out his yard. A lot of material is in the buffer zone that has to be moved. Mr. Hankin and Mr. Luongo did a site walk and conversations have occurred with Mr. Shedden about the matter. Discussion addressed how material to be removed could be used to level yard back towards the house. The Commission agreed to have Mr. Hankin work with Mr. Shedden to complete an application.

Also addressed was June 24, 2015 meeting topic about 470 Essex Street and whether or not a septic system design had been filed with Board of Health.

In addition, the Town's open space plan needs to be revised and resubmitted to the state for approval, and the Town Manager wants the work to be done by staff.

Discussion was on land acquisition policy distributed to Boards by the Selectmen. Commissioners will provide comments in land acquisition policy Word document and this draft will be discussed at June 24, 2015 meeting.

Vacant seats on the Commission have been publicized in the newspaper, social media, and during Selectmen's meetings.

Mr. Cronin moved to adjourn. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted July 1, 2015 by Jane Dooley