

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of July 29, 2015
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent

Others present:

Alan Berry

Ken Dixon

Shawn Farrell

Mike DeRosa

Jonathan, Myopia

Mary McDougall

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and mentioned that the meeting was being recorded. Jim Hankin noted the Commissioners agenda packet included Commission comments on land acquisition policy. There is a site walk scheduled for Saturday, August 1 that will occur if items come in for Commission review.

Notice of Intent (Continued from July 15, 2015)

650 Asbury Street (former Patton Property)

CP Berry, LLC and Town of Hamilton Co-Applicants

DEP has issued a file number but the filing is still under review. The amount of activity in the jurisdictional zone is minimal.

Keith Glidden moved to close the hearing. Bob Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Glidden moves to issue the Order of Conditions for 650 Asbury Street. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

A final plan describing zoning change for three unit building to two unit building will be provided to the Commission.

Request for Determination

240 Linden Street

Baris Beck Applicant, Dan Johnson Septic system designer

Install title V complaint septic system, tank and grading in jurisdiction, leaching field outside jurisdiction.

Dan Johnson explained details associated with upgrade to failed septic system at 240 Linden Street for four bedroom house. The new leaching field will be located 84' from wetland for a 1,500 gallon septic tank to be 10' of off property line. Mr. Hankin described the developed lot

and showed the Commission photographs of test pits, resource and project areas. The property had lawn installed prior to the regulation.

Mr. Glidden moved to issue a Negative Determination. George Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Notice of Intent

435 Bay Road, Myopia Hunt Club
Dredge pond and construct new pump house
Myopia Hunt Club Owner, DeRosa Environmental Rep.

Mr. Glidden moved to open the public hearing. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mike DeRosa mentioned that there is no DEP project number yet. He described how project is focused on Mortimer Pond and planned dredging where land under water elevation in a sizable portion of the pond will be dropped from 22' to 13'. This dredging is part of the club's upgrade of its irrigation system to improve efficiency and use less water. The pond is part of the Miles River.

Restoration elements of the project include invasive species management where invasive species will be removed and replaced with native species. Hydro-raking will occur in the pond. Six, solar-powered diffusers will be used to aerate the water. Three existing pump houses will be consolidated into one pump house to control irrigation.

For the dredging, "the pinch point" of the pond will be blocked off with sacks filled with sand and gravel. Then the sluiceway is removed which will drop the water elevation four to five feet. A 12' gravity pipe will be used to feed water around the coffer dam and lead to the outlet at the stone bridge. A surface water pump will be used to direct water to outlet during construction if required. This will be a six to eight week project beginning in November. A temporary haul road will be created and used. All work will be done mechanically using a large excavator and trucks. Disposal sites for the dredged material are on the golf practice field outside of jurisdiction. A wet well and pump will be installed that will deliver the water to the new pump house. This work will result in temporary impact to wetland.

Polo field irrigation will be combined with golf course irrigation. A line from the new pump house will go to main line for polo field where trenching will be required. The new pump house will be permitted as part of the project but expected construction for that is fall 2016 or spring 2017. Excavator will be used for piping to wet well, flume, and polo field irrigation system and put in effect once new pump house is built. Demolition of existing pump houses will occur after construction of new pump house.

The required Riverfront alternatives analysis included five options for pump house driven by depth of wet well with consideration. The five alternatives are included in the NOI, The selected alternative is in the No Disturb and No Build Zones, but the work will occur in previously disturbed areas at and will reduce total excavation and damage to trees from what would occur if the pump house is kept entirely out of the No Build Zone. The grade for the haul road will require a cut and have a slope but wetland will be restored including removal of gravel followed by plantings.

Photographs were taken of invasive species surrounding pond including Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, Japanese barberry,

Norway maple and burning bush which will be removed and natives will remain. A planting plan included in the NOI shows replanting with natives for all invasive species removed; of note are high bush blueberry, winterberry, elderberry, tea rose and other high value shrubs. Planting shelves will be included in the pond itself, with aquatic plants for fisheries and habitat.

Erosion control will be used at haul road and around wetland where invasive species will be removed and at location of demolition and shed work. None of the work will be done in an estimated habitat zone and a 401 water quality certification (removed material sampling) will be filed. The project is removal of 9,500 cubic yards which is below 10,000 MEPA threshold. After care and monitoring will be required, for two to three years, to demonstrate the survivorship of the native species that are proposed to replace invasive species. Monthly field inspections will be done and compiled in summary annual report. The Commission could do site walks to review conditions as the work proceeds.

Discussion ensued about how the pond is two to three feet of soft bottom across the pond and when it is drained the sediment will become part of hard bottom and be part of dredged material. It is estimated that it takes about a week for the pond to refill. The disposal plan for the invasive species is to chip it into wood chips and take it to recycling/composting operation at Brick Ends Farm or TW Excavating. Whole plant knotweed removed will be given to Franklin Park Zoo for giraffe forage and care will be taken to manage removal of plant roots to prevent propagation. Disturbed soil will be seeded with native mix and planted with understory shrubs. When dredging and dewatering occurs fish and turtles will be moved to habitat areas.

Mr. Hankin emphasized the importance of receiving DEP file number and comments. He will prepare performance standards paperwork for the Commission to review the performance standards for all resource area impacts, including land under water, riverfront, BVW. DeRosa said everything removed will be restored.

Ken Dixon, 33 Elm Street, inquired about and was notified that no trees will be taken down. Herbicide is sometimes used to manage bittersweet that cannot be taken out of trees and chipped. Discussion ensued about how hydro-raking would be a long term process since invasive species could re-enter site from upstream river flow. The flow in spillway under the roadway will remain the same.

In response to Rich McGrath, 41 Fox Run Road, Mr. DeRosa explained that a wildlife habitat evaluation will be done regarding change in habitat by temporarily draining pond. DEP has required the evaluation. Discussion addressed how coffer dam will not be located near white pines, and that canopy size Norway maples, an invasive species, will remain while saplings would be removed. The permit would be good for three years and an extension is possible.

Mr. Farrell asked about the club's water registration to use 37.2 million gallons a year and new system would reduce this usage by 20% to 30% so more water could stay in the river. There is no incentive for the club to use more water. The polo fields use as much irrigation water as the golf course.

Mr. Glidden moved to continue the hearing until August 12, 2015. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Determination

74 Blueberry Lane
Mary McDougall Applicant and Owner
Construct addition just within the 100' Buffer Zone

Several years ago the Commission granted permission for an addition at this lot, but the project was never started and the permit expired. The new application is for a smaller addition (no foundation or slab) and there is less incursion into the buffer zone with the new project.

Mr. Glidden moved to issue a Negative Determination. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion Items

Vote to appoint George Tarr, Anne Gero, Gretel Clark, and Emery McCourt to HCC Open Space Subcommittee

Mr. Glidden moved to appoint George Tarr, Anne Gero, Gretel Clark, and Emery McCourt to HCC Open Space Subcommittee. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0-1 with Mr. Tarr abstaining.

Land Acquisition Policy–Draft, HCC to vote on comment

Discussion ensued about HCC comments on Land Acquisition Policy addressing BOS authority, and that all parcels in Town identified for potential land conservation could be on a priority list not just chapter land.

Mr. Glidden voted to adopt the HCC comments on the Land Acquisition Policy and forward those to BOS. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the article.

Vote Minutes of June 24, 2015

Mr. Cronin moved to accept the minutes of June 24, 2015. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Hankin will be on vacation August 3-8.

Mr. Cronin moved to adjourn. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted August 11, 2015 by Jane Dooley