

HAMILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town Hall Hamilton MA

October 26, 2016

Members Present: Richard Luongo Chair, Bob Cronin, Virginia Cookson, George Tarr and Chris Currier (arrived at 7:03)

Coordinator: Jim Hankin

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum established.

A site walk was scheduled for Saturday October 29, 2016

Next meeting at the Library. 7 – 8 pm.

12 Postgate Rd. Request for Determination

16' x 18' screen porch in the buffer zone

Paul Furnari, Meridian Construction was present representing home owners, Mike and Linda Bucci. Mr. Bucci was also present.

Mr. Furnari was proposing a 16' x 18' screen porch in the buffer zone. Jim Hankin reported on his site inspection and showed photos. Mr. Furnari verified where the location would be showing that the rear of the structure was shown on the plan. Mr. Hankin said he walked to the edge of the yard to find a stockade fence with a steep slope to the wetlands. According to Mr. Hankin, the line looked accurate and work was well away from the steep slope. This request is similar to others that typically receive approval under an RDA. The work was 75' from the wetland, according to Mr. Hankin with more than one half of the work area being outside the jurisdiction.

Virginia Cookson asked if the plan was from when the house was built. Paul Furnari responded it was from 2005 when the home was remodeled. Ms. Cookson said the Commission was not verifying the wetland line, but making a determination on the project only.

Motion made by Richard Luongo to issue a negative determination.

Seconded by George Tarr

Vote: Unanimous in favor of a negative determination.

Request for Permit Extension under the By-law

Bridge Street culvert project DEP#172-0578, recorded Bk 34102 page

Jim Hankin explained that a three year permit for an Order of Conditions was issued in May of 2015. Mr. Hankin said at the time, the local permit issued at the same time as the Order of

Conditions has expired, but could be extended by the Commission with no effective lapse. Ms. Cookson suggested that the Commission consider establishing a policy to more uniformly allow for Permit extensions in these circumstances. Mr. Hankin commented that the Bylaw text itself sets the permit duration for one year and that currently permits are extended on a case by case basis.

Motion to extend the local permit for Bridge St. culvert work to May 29, 2018 when the State permit expired, made by Virginia Cookson.

George Tarr seconded.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the extension.

Minutes

Motion made by George Tarr to accept the minutes of October 12, 2016

Virginia Cookson seconded

Vote: Unanimous to accept the minutes of October 12, 2016

Coordinator's Report

Jim Hankin updated the Commission on the landfill which had been capped and noted that project managers would be looking for a Certificate of Compliance soon. Virginia Cookson and Richard Luongo said it had not been vegetated yet. Ms. Cookson added that they had not finished making the wetland replication. Mr. Hankin suggested putting the site walk on hold until spring.

Town Meeting voted to delegate authority of the newly dedicated one acre of open space on Central Ave. to the Commission. Virginia Cookson noted during her site visit that there were wetlands abutting the south side of the lot but it was unclear if wetlands were on the lot itself. A site visit would allow the Commission to see what was there. As there was a tremendous amount of dumping of leaves and waste, Mr. Hankin mentioned installing signs saying no more dumping. Mr. Hankin said he would sit down with the Town Manager and explain why the Town should not allow votes like this before speaking with the Commission about accepting open space.

Invasive Species at Patton Homestead

Jim Hankin suggested filing a RDA but MACC suggested a NOI. Mr. Hankin said it was possible to waive the fee for the RDA but not for the more extensive NOI. Work in the resource area and Riverfront projects required a NOI, according to MACC. A RDA indicated work could occur in the resource area if the work did not alter it.

George Tarr stated, as he had in the past, that he would like to remove invasive species on the 9.1 acres and start the project by taking an inventory of the invasive species currently there.

Jim Hankin discussed some regulations regarding altering resource area. He mentioned that "vista pruning" is an exempt activity but invasive species removal may be more broad an activity

than “pruning”. He said, however, that it was up to the Commission to determine if that exemption fit this type of project. Removal of invasive species had been approved for a different project under an RDA in the past but all that work was in buffer zone and this would be, partially, in riverfront area. The discussion on this would be continued to November 2.

The Commission agreed to place on the agenda for November 16 the continuation of the discussion on an Open Space Plan for the Patton Homestead. The Commission discussed the remaining topics: (1) verification of the location of all Patton Ridge infrastructures that encroaches on the 9.1 acres of Open Space including areas of drainage from any infrastructure and (2) discussion on adding the “triangular portion of land” that connects to the canoe launch, to the 9.1 acres of designated Open Space. Also on November 16 Mr. Hankin will report on the results of his research into which roads in Hamilton have been designated scenic roads under state law.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Cronin
Seconded by George Tarr

Vote Unanimous to adjourn at 7:45 pm

Attest

Date

Prepared by Marcie Ricker