

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of April 16, 2014
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Request for Determination

133 Gregory Island Road

David Tondreault Applicant, Dan Johnson, Title V system designer

Install Title V compliant septic system 80' EOW

Dan Johnson described how the project locus as the last house on right before Hamilton/Essex town lines. The Presby septic system (that takes out suspended solids) will be located in the front yard with a mounted system 4' above grade, 96' from wetland to leaching area and 100' to Chebacco Lake. This system will have a retaining wall that will be graded into existing grade for abutting property's septic system for uniform mounding on two properties. Membranes are installed for breakout. Mr. Johnson clarified that new system will not encroach on wetlands more than pre-existing conditions.

Discussion ensued about how Mr. Hankin will inspect the site after the work is completed and notation would be included in plan if there is a change from as-built plan that is filed with Board of Health.

Keith Glidden moved to issue a Negative #2 Determination. Virginia Cookson suggested a letter be added about what options could be used (i.e., the retaining wall and grading) and if the work done is not the same as original plan then notation has to be included with as-built plan. Peter Dana seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Acceptance of minutes of March 26, 2014

Ms. Cookson moved that the Commission accept the March 26, 2014 minutes as written. Mr. Dana seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Non-resident serving out Conservation Commission term

Mr. Hankin reported that Stacy Carpenter is no longer a resident of Hamilton. Legal opinion exists that she can finish out her term as a non-resident but cannot be reappointed. Her term expires in 2015. Ms. Carpenter is interested in serving out her term.

Tree removal and forestry work at 1 Surrey Lane

Mr. Hankin stated that there has been report of tree removal and forestry work done at 1 Surrey Lane property owned by Mark Boden. Mr. Hankin met the property owner at the site and the majority of tree work and disturbance is upland. The property owner and Mr. Hankin discussed whether a forest cutting plan was necessary. Mr. Boden directed Mr. Hankin to a regulation that indicates that a forest cutting plan is not required if he intends to convert the forest to cultivation. Mr. Boden said he plans to plant hay and Christmas trees. Mr. Hankin said there was a small amount of wetland activity which Mr. Boden claims was necessary to maintain path back to upland area. Mr. Hankin informed the property owner that the Commission would do a site walk (May 3 is possible date). Mr. Hankin said activity in wetlands may or may not be exempt under agricultural exemption. The 19-acre property has a house on the site. Mr. Boden has agreed to cease tree cutting, lumbering and logging on his property until the Commission does its site walk.

Mr. Hankin described how the Commission will have to determine how much activity in the Commission's jurisdiction occurred that would require a permit and is not agriculturally exempt and how much of the tree work is in the buffer zone. He noted that most of the forestry work is upland.

Update on Patton Park Pool project

Mr. Hankin noted that the Annual Town Meeting warrant article on the Patton Park Pool project was withdrawn.

Update on Patton Homestead property

Mr. Hankin updated the Commission on Annual Town Meeting approval of sale of land at Patton Homestead. An application will be filed in the coming months for housing development. Discussion ensued about how there was always an option in the gift agreement to sell a portion of the land and that the location for the sale had changed with consent from Mrs. Patton. Mr. Hankin described how there has been consideration given to use an existing cart path as the access road to the new housing which is located next to the wetland.

Update on former Pirie property construction

Mr. Hankin reported that he is unaware of any issues with former Pirie property relative to construction occurring at the site. Apparently there has been rancor amongst neighbors about equitable use of equestrian facilities. Mr. Hankin stated that he would observe the site but thought most of the construction work was occurring upland.

Miles River Road property pond and tree removal

Ms. Cookson described how a house in area off of Miles River Road has a small pond in back with fence around it where trees were cut. Mr. Hankin will observe the property. Mrs. Cookson inquired about if Order of Conditions for this property was in perpetuity regarding keeping the area conducive for wood duck habitat.

Election of Commission Officers

Ms. Cookson moved that the Commission elect Richard Luongo to continue for another one year term as Chairman of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Glidden seconded the motion. The Commission voted 5-0-1 since Mr. Luongo abstained.

The Commission's next meeting is on April 30. Mr. Cronin moved to adjourn. Ms. Cookson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted April 29, 2014 by Jane Dooley