

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2015
Meeting held at Hamilton Senior Center**

Commissioners present:

Richard Luongo, Chair, Virginia Cookson, Bob Cronin, Chris Currier, George Tarr

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent

Others present:

Zachary Peters

Bill Redford, DPW Director

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and mentioned that the meeting was being recorded. Essex County Greenbelt Association is holding a Chapter 61 working farm workshop on December 3.

Discussion items

Zach Peters, Patton Park paving project

Zachary Peters, resident had inquired about the Patton Park paving project. He spoke to the drainage from the parking lot to Weaver Pond and RDA that addressed drainage pitching away from the pond. Mr. Peters indicated that the conditions at the site do not comport with the RDA materials. The public works RDA intended to have stormwater and road runoff directed to the playground in the low area near the zip line, and there was acknowledgement of some amount of runoff previously flowing toward the pond. Mr. Peters expressed his concern about stormwater management best practices being used for the parking lot into the area especially the playground. He also mentioned the hydrologic connection to the Miles River from the wetland referring to a USGS map.

Bill Redford, DPW Director, explained that prior to the construction of the parking lot, some drainage from the area was going from parking area to pond. The area has been re-graded and a berm was installed to keep sheet flow from going to Weaver Pond. There are three areas in the current parking lot where no berm is located: access to DPW garage and bathhouse, mile markers pedestrian walkway, and at low point where sheet flow discharges onto grass. He noted the previous discussion, during the RDA meeting in August, about potentially using a leaching catch basin but there had been agreement that due to the high water table in the area it is likely it would not be very effective. A catch basin could be installed, piped and connected to existing outfall.

Discussion ensued about how the parking lot is for other uses at the park besides any future pool use. Grading is being completed along edge of parking lot. Final paving will be scheduled for the spring or after the pool construction is completed. The state requires the pitch of parking lot to be such that it directs stormwater away from the street. Also noted was that the cannons were not moved from present location at the park.

Mr. Redford reiterated the decision not to install a new catch basin but to direct water into the aforementioned existing depression where water naturally flows. Mr. Peters expressed his concern about what kind of runoff would infiltrate into the playground area and capacity of depressed area to handle volume of stormwater. Mr. Hankin noted that this is an ongoing project and generally subject to change with Commission approval in advance. All agreed that observations during a rain event could provide information on the runoff and ultimate destination of water flow. Rough calculations have been done on packed gravel versus asphalt parking lot.

DEP requested the Commission's file on RDA which was scanned and sent to them.

Discuss and vote Conservation Commission's draft 2016 meeting and site walk schedule

Virginia Cookson moved to accept the Conservation Commission's draft 2016 meeting and site walk schedule. Bob Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report on Commission finances

Mr. Hankin presented his brief written report on Commission accounts and finances. Commissioners discussed the Clark Fund and the Conservation Fund.

Discuss and approve OSSC Mission Statement

This agenda item was moved to the December 16 meeting.

Commissioners suggest topics for discussion at HCC meeting of December 16, 2015

The Commission will address 470 Essex Street NOI at this meeting. Selectman liaison Shawn Farrell will attend. Town Counsel Donna Brewer may attend. The applicant has an approved septic design for a single family house proposed for the property, but this design has yet to be added to the NOI.

Vote Minutes for November 4, 2015

The Commission will vote on the November 4, 2015 minutes at its next meeting.

Mr. Cronin moved to adjourn. Ms. Cookson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes submitted December 3, 2015 by Jane Dooley