

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of May 27, 2015
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent
Bill Redford, DPW Director

Others present:

Tim Diguglielmo
William Redford

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and mentioned that anyone recording the meeting, either by video or audio, should state that before the meeting formally starts. Anyone is free to record any meeting, but an announcement is required so that those members of the public in attendance may choose whether or not they wish to be recorded. Jim Hankin referred Commissioners to their agenda packets which include Massachusetts River and Streams crossing standards, his comments, and comments from Weston and Sampson in regard to Bridge Street culvert project. The Commission has a site walk on June 6 and the next meeting is on June 10.

Notice of Intent (Continuation of public hearing from May 13, 2015)

Bridge Street culvert, at Bridge Street a public way;
Re-construct Bridge Street culvert, work in Miles River and riverfront area
Town of Hamilton DPW, Applicant, Weston & Sampson rep

DPW Director Bill Redford explained that two and half years ago the Town received funding approval from FEMA via the disaster mitigation program to replace the culvert at Bridge Street and Miles River. The Town hopes to start the project this August.

Tim Diguglielmo, representing the DPW's consultant Weston and Sampson, described preliminary design being done and coordination with Gas Company relative to gas supply for communities located north of the culvert. He reiterated that there is a certain timeframe when work can occur. He explained that existing culvert is stacked granite block design that is not consistent in size being narrower on upstream end versus downstream end. The proposal is for 8' by 12' concrete box culvert with two gas lines going across. It will be buried two feet so effective area will be 12' wide and 6' high to slow down velocity of water flow. A concrete patch repair was done to the existing culvert in 2000. The work will be a permanent fix and to control flows relative to flooding.

Discussion ensued about 8" local Nstar gas line, and 12" Tennessee gas line and how the river at times flows over the pipe. The gas lines follow what appears to be an old railroad easement. Intent is to keep one vehicle travel lane open while the culvert is being constructed. Any work in the river bed that disturbs river stone will be replaced with natural substrate. Modeling was done for 100 year storm so peak flow should not affect downstream. Contractor will develop a plan for

temporary bypass pipe to handle normal flows and a pump will be on site which will turn on to maintain water levels when necessary and water will flow through a silt curtain. A backup pump will be required in case one pump fails. Duration of work is estimated to be completed in summer season (August to September).

Wildlife impacts and stream crossing guidelines relative to stream crossing standards were discussed by the Applicant and the Commissioners. DPW's position is that by reducing the water flow velocity through the culvert it will be easier for wildlife to get through the crossing than is currently the case, even if it's just a marginal improvement. Weston and Sampson, for DPW, refer responded to DEP's comment by referring their supplemental document description showing stream flow velocities. Calculations address DEP comment about effects on upstream and downstream area. A chart summarizes model of culvert versus 50-year and 100-year storms and flow through new culvert versus over old culvert. Downstream impact is negligible because storage should be able to handle it. For existing flows more water will go through but size of culvert is similar so there is no expected significant impact. Mr. Diguglielmo also referred to the stream crossing guidelines discussion in the NOI itself. The issue of turtle access across the street was included in supplemental response #7. Ms. Cookson stated her position that this response was not satisfactory under the Guidelines and she asked for more specific protections to be presented at a future hearing.

Mr. Redford indicated that a surveyor will draft a plan precisely indicating the location of the utility easements in the works area. Agreements to allow work in the area will be reached with utilities. This will be included in the Order of Conditions before work begins.

Bob Cronin moved to close the hearing. George Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3 to 1 in favor of the motion, Virginia Cookson opposed. The motion passed.

Mr. Tarr moved to issue the Order of Conditions referencing Massachusetts River and Streams crossing standards document, Weston and Sampson's Supplemental Documents containing their response to DEP and the Coordinator's comments. Members and the applicant then began a discussion about a Special Condition to leave a 42" bypass temporary pipe permanently in the culvert to assist in reptile crossing. Measures will be undertaken to ensure this condition will not be a problem for public works and safety for Town. An engineering analysis will be undertaken to determine feasibility of making the temporary pipe permanent. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Determination of Applicability

122 Gregory Island Road

William A. Thedford, owner and applicant

Gardening and landscaping, lawn conversion to plants, along Chebacco Lake

William Thedford explained details about his plan for removing grass along lakefront and installing buffer plants (i.e., native species that tolerate wet conditions). A fair amount of lot is within 100' of lake. Jeffreys Creek will do the work using a turf cutter to remove lawn. There is a rain garden on the site that will be expanded, with a bluestone walking path along the woods. A tree will remain at the end of removed turf area where perennial plantings will be installed. In addition, Mr. Thedford will install an underground perforated PVC pipe from downspout into the rain garden. Also, he is interested in installing a built-in area for a grill, and restoring sunken ground by leveling it to grade and seeding it (8' diameter circle filled to four inches of soil in the 25' No Disturb Zone), or installing a suitable native tree.

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

Discussion topics

Commissioners list items for June 10, 2015 meeting

“Re-booting” the Open Space Committee (for June 24, 2015 meeting)

Acceptance of minutes of April 8, 2015 and May 13, 2015

Mr. Tarr moved to accept the minutes of April 8, 2015. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Cookson moved to accept the minutes of May 13, 2015. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Coordinator’s Report

Mr. Hankin has not heard any update on 470 Essex Street. That matter remains on the agenda for a continuation of the public hearing on June 24.

Mr. Cronin moved to adjourn. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Minutes submitted June 8, 2015 by Jane Dooley