

**Hamilton Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting of July 25, 2012  
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Virginia Cookson (8:41), Robert Cronin, Peter Dana, Richard Luongo (chair),  
George Tarr

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Coordinator

Others present for a portion of the meeting:

Gordon Rogerson, consultant  
Darryl Forgione, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Mike Stiller, consultant

The Commission is scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 15, 2012 at Hamilton Town Hall. Site walks are scheduled for Sat. Aug. 11, 2012.

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Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin noted that prior to this meeting, commissioners received copies of a project narrative regarding proposed replacement of a septic system at 16 Martel Rd.

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Request for Determination

16 Martel Road

Marvin Wilson, applicant; Hayes Engineering, designer  
Install Title V compliant septic system

Septic engineer Gordy Rogerson displayed a site plan and provided details about the proposed septic system to replace a failing system at 16 Martel Rd.. He said the existing tank lies within 25' of the wetlands at the rear of the property, and the leaching field is within 10' of wetlands and may enter the resource area at some points. He noted that the 50' no build zone loops across the back yard close to the house, and most of the parcel is within 100' of wetlands, so there is no way to site a septic system 100' from wetlands on this parcel.

The proposed new system would include a 1500-gallon tank in the same location as the existing 1000-gallon tank, and a gravity feed leaching field to one side of the house; the existing leaching field close to the wetlands would be abandoned and left in place. An oak tree at the side of the house would be removed. Hay bales or a silt sock would be placed at the limit of the work area. He said the design does not include a membrane because the slope to wetlands is a substantial distance from the proposed location of the leaching field.

Mr. Hankin distributed photos he took at the site. He and Mr. Rogerson spoke about grass clippings and limbs that they observed in the wetlands, and agreed the septic contractor, not the owners, should remove this material. Mr. Rogerson said the owners have dumped organic debris there over 40 years, and were unaware that this violates wetland regulations.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to grant a negative determination under the Wetland Protection Act and the Hamilton Conservation By Law, with the condition that material be removed from the wetlands. Virginia Cookson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

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Notice of Intent (Public hearing continued from June 27 & July 18, 2012)

Bradley Palmer State Park

Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), applicant; URS Corp., representative  
Repair wading pool, install new water line, repair culvert

Michael Stiller of URS Corp., DCR's design consultant for upgrades and repairs to the wading pool and associated water lines and drains at Bradley Palmer State Park, detailed how the original project proposal has been adjusted in response to the Commission's questions and comments at an earlier session of this public hearing and at a site walk. He apologized for his firm's failure to have a representative at that site walk, but noted that Darryl Forgione of DCR was present for it. DCR has amended the original proposal to facilitate infiltration of water in a grassed area intended for parking near the wading pool, so less run-off would enter an existing culvert below a park road and discharge into wetlands on the other side. A 1.5' deep infiltration structure would be excavated below that grassed parking area and filled with 3/8" to 1.5" stone; a precast concrete curb would dam it at one end so water would infiltrate through the stone rather than running downgrade toward the road and wetlands beyond. He said the structure would capture the first half-inch of run-off in that area, or more if rain falls slowly, but that because the groundwater table is at the bottom of the proposed stone layer, in heavy rain that would inhibit further infiltration. They discussed whether oil and grease from cars might get into wetlands; he said the first half-inch of run-off would have the highest concentration of these materials, and that volume would be reliably captured. He suggested that removing the pipe between the wading pool area and wetlands across the road was impractical because water would drain across the road, creating icy conditions and eroding the roadway into wetlands. The pipe also carries water below the road when the wading pool is drained in the fall, and the water main from the street is turned off and drained. The amended plan adds a small manhole where the water main meets the drainage pipe, to facilitating making the connection.

Discussion continued about the state Department of Environmental Protection's upcoming review of the original project proposal; at Mr. Hankin's suggestion, Mr. Stiller agreed to convey the revised project proposal to DEP.

With the applicant's consent, the Commission continued this matter to the meeting of August 15.

George Tarr asked about whether the proposed infiltration design is commonly used, and whether its effectiveness in filtering contaminants could be monitored and measured. Mr. Stiller said stone-filled channels are used frequently on construction sites, work well for years, and are durable and maintenance-free. He said that without baseline analysis, it would be difficult to measure whether the infiltration structure has a measureable impact on filtering oil and gas that might drip from cars in the parking area; he said he would be surprised if the expected concentrations were even measureable.

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Request for Determination

265 Echo Cove Road

Robin Ward, applicant; Dan Johnson, designer

Install Title V compliant septic system

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin detailed a proposed septic system replacement at 265 Echo Cove Rd., a narrow lot between the road and Chebacco Lake. The existing septic system lies between the house and a side property line a short distance from the house; he noted that neighbors came to the Commission fairly recently regarding a dispute about whether that line defines private property only, or a right-of-way for pedestrian access to the lake. The new system would overlay the existing septic system site; Mr. Hankin said it is positioned as far from the lake as the dimensions and topography of the parcel allow. A silt fence would be placed between the work site and the lake. Debris along the property line would be removed. No work would take place in the strip of land that some neighbors maintain is a right-of-way. Because the lot slopes toward the lake, the plan calls for construction of a retaining wall, and a membrane would be installed around the leaching field. Mr. Hankin said the slope makes it difficult to design a system for this parcel, but that because the existing system is failing and must be replaced, he recommends the Commission grant a negative determination. He said the health agent had not approved the septic design at the time of this meeting but that he was confident she would do so.

Virginia Cookson made a motion for the Commission to grant a negative determination under the Wetland Protection Act and the Hamilton Conservation By-Law. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Virginia Cookson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Minutes submitted Aug. 16, 2012 by Ann Sierks Smith