

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 28, 2011
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Robert Cronin, Peter Dana, Keith Glidden, Richard Luongo (Chair), George Tarr

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Coordinator

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting included:

Albert DeGroot, 193 Chebacco Rd.

Carol Decker, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary

Dr. Celeste Bowler, Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District

Michael DeRosa, consultant

The Commission is scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 5 and Oct. 19, 2011 at Hamilton Town Hall. The October site walk is scheduled for Saturday morning Oct. 1, but might be cancelled if no filings are received by Sept. 28 that require a site visit.

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

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin said the only document commissioners received prior to this meeting was the 2 page proposal for the school district's 2011-2012 environmental education program.

Presentation of Proposal for 2011-2012 Environmental Education Program

Massachusetts Audubon Society and Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD)

Carol Decker, the director of the Audubon Society's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, briefly presented the 2011-2012 proposal for the Environmental Education Program on which the sanctuary and school district have collaborated since 1992. She said the elementary school in-class programs and field trips are aligned with curriculum standards. HWRSD Assistant Superintendent for Learning Dr. Celeste Bowler read aloud elementary school teachers' positive comments about the program.

Commissioners briefly discussed the Wenham Conservation Commission's lack of financial support for this program. Ms. Decker said a private donor in Wenham contributes \$500 a year but the rest of the budget has been paid for by this Commission for a number of years. Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin said the Commission's recent custom has been to vote in the fall to approve spending Hamilton's share of the budget as specified in the proposal, and to consider later in the year providing more funds if Wenham does not contribute as requested.

The Commission took the proposal under advisement, and scheduled a vote on the budget request for the Oct. 5 meeting.

Notice of Intent (Public Hearing continued from Aug. 17 and Sept. 14, 2011)
25 Sagamore Farm Road
Clement Benensen, applicant; DeRosa Environmental, representative
Construct pond

Wetland consultant Mike DeRosa explained that a discrepancy between figures and map dimensions that a commissioner pointed out at the Commission's last meeting stemmed from incomplete coloring of some areas of the site plan. He said the NOI documents list the accurate square footages of various types of wetland that would lie in and around at proposed pond. He displayed a revised site plan showing all areas properly colored.

Mr. DeRosa said removal of existing reed canary grass from the existing BVW area, and subsequent excavation of a pond and planting of species including tupelos, winterberry, high-bush blueberry, buttonbush, and herbaceous species, would create a more diverse habitat and result in a net increase in resource area. He stated also that if the Commission grants an Order of Conditions, he would then apply for a state 401 permit, and a federal Clean Water Act 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, both of which require an applicant to obtain a local permit before filing. He said TW Excavating would do the work, and that he would supervise it on-site. If the state and federal permits are issued promptly the work might take place over the winter, or the project might not take place until later in 2012. He asked the Commission to extend the usual 1-year permit to run for one year upon the issuance of a state permit.

Commissioners asked what would occur during dry periods. Mr. DeRosa said planting shelves are planned at a depth of 1' to 18", so that plants growing in the pond would survive a dry period, which he estimated might lower the water level of the pond by a maximum of 1'.

Keith Glidden made a motion for the Commission to close the public hearing. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Glidden made a motion for the Commission to issue an Order of Conditions allowing the pond as proposed, with the finding that it meets the standards for a limited project, and with the local permit extended to be of equal time with the state permit. Mr. Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Commissioners signed the OOC.

Request for Determination
193 Chebacco Road
Albert DeGroot, applicant
Install geo-thermal heating system

Al DeGroot described the geo-thermal heating system he proposes to install in his front yard, showed commissioners a site plan, and passed around photos of the installation of a similar closed loop system. Four rows of coil would be installed in an 80' X 20' trench, 6' deep. The trench would come within 20' of the road. Mr. DeGroot said the system would heat and cool his home and provide most of its hot water, making the existing oil burner unnecessary. The project is expected to take three days, and would take place by mid-November. Excavated material would be mounded in the front yard until the trench is backfilled and reseeded. The property, which commissioners visited in early September, is across the street from Beck's Pond. Mr. DeGroot

and Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin agreed the work area, and the area between the work area and the road, are fairly flat.

The parties reached a consensus that substantial erosion control is appropriate. Mr. Hankin noted that a siltation barrier should be placed downgrade of both the trench and the mound of excavated material.

Keith Glidden made a motion for the Commission to issue a negative determination. Peter Dana seconded the motion. The Commission recommended installation of a backfilled trenched silt fence. VOTE: Unanimous.

Certificate of Compliance

375 Bridge Street

John Gardner, applicant

Construct bridge over stream; DEP file #172-0544, recorded Book 30553 Page 412

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin showed commissioners photos he took earlier in the week of this meeting of the completed bridge across a stream at 375 Bridge St. He said the plan approved by the Commission called for an earthen berm where the land slopes toward the bridge, but a gravel berm was created instead, which he said would probably provide better erosion control than the soil berm that had been proposed. He recommended the Commission grant a Certificate of Compliance.

Keith Glidden made a motion for the Commission to grant a Certificate of Compliance. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Notice of Intent (Public Hearing continued from Sept. 14, 2011)

Gregory Island Road

Town of Hamilton Department of Public Works, applicant; World Tech Engineering, representative

Re-pave Gregory Island Road

The Commission continued this public hearing to the meeting of Oct. 5, 2011 at the applicant's request.

Notice of Intent (Public Hearing continued from Sept. 14, 2011)

130 Essex Street (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

GCTS, applicant; Waterfield Design Group, representative

Perform electric work, install pathways, install aerator in pond and install native wetland plantings in resource areas

The Commission continued this public hearing to the meeting of Oct. 5, 2011 at the applicant's request.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to accept the minutes of Sept. 14, 2011 as presented. Keith Glidden seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

A scheduled discussion of Commission oversight of various management plans was postponed until the meeting of Oct. 5, 2011 so the Conservation Coordinator could assemble appropriate documentation.

Mr. Cronin made a motion for the Commission to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Keith Glidden seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Minutes submitted Oct. 3, 2011 by Ann Sierks Smith