

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 11, 2012
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Stacy Carpenter, Robert Cronin, Peter Dana, Richard Luongo (chair),
George Tarr

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Coordinator

Others present for a portion of the meeting included:

Mike DeRosa, consultant

The Commission is scheduled to meet next at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2012 at Hamilton Town Hall.

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

Notice of Intent (Public hearing continued from December 14, 2011)

37 Beech Street Extension

Trisha Vaccari, applicant; DeRosa Environmental, representative

Richard Luongo opened the meeting. The applicant's wetland consultant Mike DeRosa displayed a drawing of a cross-section of the lakefront area showing the rocky lake bank under low water conditions and pointed out where excavation is to take place behind the existing rocks, and additional boulders are to be added behind those rocks to create a substantial wall. He also showed a site plan showing the proposed location of a silt curtain, which would be positioned in the water, surrounding the house site; it would be anchored on land and off shore so it would remain in place. He reported that DEP issued no comments. He said work would take place when the water level in Chebacco Lake is low, probably in August, or earlier if beaver dams are removed and the water level drops. The applicant has not decided whether to construct a dock off the lawn but would like a permit to keep the option open.

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin requested an amended plan showing the intended location of the dock. .

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

Mr. Hankin proposed a condition that work could not start until August 1, or earlier if the Applicant can show to the Commission or the Coordinator that the water level is appropriately low.

Mr. Dana made a motion for the Commission to issue an Order of Conditions with the condition proposed by Mr. Hankin. Mr. Cronin seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Notice of Intent (Public Hearing continued to Feb. 15, 2012)

Stream between Howard and Highland Street
Hamilton Department of Public Works (DPW), applicant
Clean stream from Howard to Highland, with work in bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) and bank

Wetland consultant Mike DeRosa briefly discussed his meeting with John Tomasz, Director of the Hamilton DPW about the Notice of Intent filed by the DPW for permits to clear a stream behind properties on Howard, Highland and Linden Streets. He said he visited the site with DPW Superintendent John Tomasz on the day this meeting took place. Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin noted that at the applicant's request, this Public Hearing is to be continued to Feb. 15.

Mr. Hankin and Mr. DeRosa noted that the state Department of Environmental Protection issued numerous comments about this project. Mr. Hankin said DEP would intervene if they are not all addressed adequately and it will be some time before the project could proceed. Mr. DeRosa said he would delineate the wetlands at Mr. Tomasz' request, and that DEP has requested a wildlife habitat evaluation. Mr. DeRosa said clearing the stream would not likely lower the water table sufficiently in the extensive red maple swamp to alleviate flooding of nearby yards and homes.

Request for Determination

45 Day Avenue

Ellen Albanese, applicant; D.B. Johnson, septic system designer

Install Title V compliant septic system, closest disturbance 72' from edge of wetland

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin displayed a site plan of the proposed new septic system to one side of the house at 45 Day Ave. The existing system failed a Title V inspection. Wetlands lie beyond the back border of the property. The grassed yard slopes about 3' between the house and wetlands. The site plan shows the proposed placement of a line of hay bales for siltation control. The leaching field would come within 81' of the edge of wetlands.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to grant a negative determination. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to approve the minutes of the meeting of Dec. 14, 2011 as presented. George Tarr seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Certificate of Compliance

31 Highland Street

Eliza Thorndike-Thissel, applicant

DEP file #172-0307

Conservation Coordinator said that in the course of planning the demolition and reconstruction of their existing house, the applicant's engineer discovered that a Certificate of Compliance (COC) was never issued for various work approved and performed in 1997. The applicants therefore have applied for a COC. Mr. Hankin displayed a Google Earth photo and pointed out where the permitted work took place in 1997; a long driveway was paved that has wetlands on either side, and a turn-around that encloses wetlands was paved near the house.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Commissioners tabled until a future meeting consideration of selecting workshops to attend at the March annual conference of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

Mr. Hankin announced he would make a short presentation at Town Hall on the afternoon following this meeting about how to get permits regarding beaver activity; the presentation resulted from inquiries to Town and state officials by residents of Homestead Circle, who have had increasing problems with the rising level of the Miles River. Commissioners and Mr. Hankin briefly discussed beaver dams and activity on several waterways in Hamilton and Ipswich.

Mr. Hankin said he would meet soon with state officials regarding several projects under consideration for Bradley Palmer State Park, for which filings may reach the Commission in the coming months.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to adjourn at 8 p.m. Peter Dana seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Minutes submitted 1/12/2012 by Ann Sierks Smith