

HAMILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 24, 2018
Memorial Room, Hamilton Town Hall

Members Present: Virginia Cookson, Bob Cronin, Chris Currier (7:03), Richard Luongo (Chairman), and George Tarr.

Coordinator: Jim Hankin

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum established.

Notice of Intent. Public Hearing continued from October 10, 2018 for 268 Linden St.

Richard Luongo reopened the public hearing. A full discussion of the project was held October 10, 2018. Rich Kirby LEC was present at the previous meeting. Ruth Ryan was present at the previous meeting and the current meeting. Jim Hankin noted that the Commission was satisfied with the presentation but continued the hearing for the DEP file number, which had been received with no DEP comments.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to close the public hearing for the proposed garage work at 268 Linden St.

George Tarr seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. 4-0 (Virginia Cookson, Bob Cronin, Richard Luongo, and George Tarr)

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for the proposed garage work at 268 Linden St.

George Tarr seconded.

Virginia Cookson noted the erosion control on the plan would be added to the standard conditions.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. (5-0)

Notice of Intent. Public Hearing continued from September 26, 2018 and from October 10, 2018 when a quorum of voting members could not be established for 33 Berrywood Lane.

Richard Luongo reopened the public hearing and then recused himself as an abutter to the applicant. Four other members were present for the previous and the current meeting. The hearing had been continued on October 10 due to a lack of a voting quorum. According to Jim Hankin, all questions had been answered at the previous hearing but a DEP file number had not been issued. A file number with no comments had been issued since the original hearing date.

Virginia Cookson made motion to close the public hearing for the Notice of Intent at 33 Berrywood Lane.

Chris Currier seconded.

Vote: Unanimous of voting members in favor (4-0) with Richard Luongo abstaining.

Virginia Cookson made motion to issue an Order of Conditions for the Notice of intent at 33 Berrywood Lane.

Chris Currier seconded.

Vote: Unanimous of voting members in favor (4-0) with Richard Luongo abstaining.

Discussion item: Patton Ridge and 9.1 acres of Open Space vegetation management.

Members of the Homeowners' Association were present. Jim Hankin announced that cedar posts were available and could be paid for by the Town. Discussion ensued regarding where the posts should be installed. Mr. Hankin said Tim Olson had indicated that DPW could mow a portion of the Commission's 9.1 acres seasonally to inhibit woody growth.

George Tarr had developed a list of suitable plant material for under the beech tree. Plants had been sorted out as deep and medium shade tolerant plants. Plants were further defined by the degree of local nativeness from Hamilton to the northeastern United States. Virginia Cookson suggested cleaning the invasive plants out from under the drip line and wondered why plant material needed to be planted as nothing under the dripline could be seen. Mr. Tarr noted that there was a volunteer jack-in-the-pulpit growing under the canopy of the beech tree. Richard Luongo said the area under the beech tree was wet but would dry out if the branches were limbed up. Mr. Luongo suggested placing bark chips under the tree.

George Tarr recalled that goldenrod was growing under the tree on the southern side, which was the most visible side from Patton Ridge. Jim Hankin offered his concern regarding trimming the beech tree with power tools as it could be considered a hazardous activity on Town-owned land which would need insurance coverage.

Members of the Patton Ridge Homeowners' Association agreed that cleaning up the area and distributing wood chips would be acceptable. Discussion ensued regarding the light under the beech tree and Mr. Tarr added that access to the underside of the tree was available on the northern side of the tree. Mr. Hankin thought funds could be found for wood chips.

The back lawn area was discussed. The 4' posts would be cut on an angle with a Conservation Commission or no disturb decal on top. 2' of the post would be embedded in the ground with 2' protruding above the ground to define the no mow line. A Patton Ridge Homeowners' Association member suggested using birdhouses on top of the posts. Mr. Hankin noted that the Town would not be responsible for adding or maintaining the birdhouses. It was agreed that birdhouses could be hung from the beech tree with Conservation Commission approval.

Virginia Cookson suggested writing a Memorandum of Understanding describing the current landscaping agreement so future homeowners or Commission members would have a record of the arrangement. Jim Hankin would draft a Memorandum for the Commission's review.

Commissioners suggest topics for discussion at the meeting of November 14, 2018.

The meeting of November 14, 2018 would include a septic system permit and discussion regarding the Audubon Education program.

Coordinator's Report

Jim Hankin noted that early voting was occurring at Town Hall.

Minutes October 10, 2018

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to approve the minutes of October 10, 2018.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

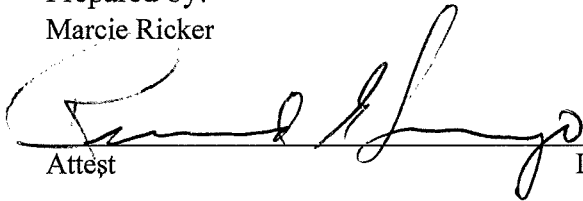
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Cronin.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 7:42 pm.

Prepared by:
Marcie Ricker

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Attest Date 11/14/18

