

HAMILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

January 23, 2019

Memorial Room, Hamilton Town Hall

Members Present: Bob Cronin, Virginia Cookson, Richard Luongo (Chairman), Tom Myers, and George Tarr.

Coordinator: Jim Hankin

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

Jim Hankin said Commissioners' packets contained the agenda, the proposed Pingree School exit drive sketch and a request to modify an Order of Conditions as a minor change for a footpath from the new Pingree athletic field to the school. The site walk is scheduled for February 9, 2019.

Request for Determination. Pingree School. Landscaping at the existing drive.

Jock Burns and Chris MacDougall were present for Pingree School. Mr. Burns explained that Pingree School had cleaned up the bittersweet and wanted to improve the visibility to pull out onto Highland St. A 50' split rail fence about 10' from the edge of the exit drive was proposed on the north side of the exit. Currently there was a steep mulched drop off, which the School wanted to fill in and feather back. Jim Hankin provided photos of the exit area and recalled that the Commission had been to the school for various site visits many times over the years. The newly leveled area would be mowed, according to Mr. Burns, and the existing tree would remain.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to issue a negative determination under the State Wetlands Protection Act and the Hamilton By-law.

Seconded by Tom Myers.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Discussion item

Request to modify as a de minimis change to Pingree School Order of Conditions to allow installation of a new footpath from the new athletic field area to the School.

The proposal is to put in a natural pathway with bollard lights. The path would go from the east end of the field, passed the tennis courts, to the School, which was the path most athletes and spectators took. The path would be no wider than 5' and the bollard lights would be similar to those in the parking lot between the turf field and Highland St. The LED lights would be installed every 50' along the path in stabilized stone dust.

In response to a question from George Tarr Mr. Burns indicated that the School now has a Sustainability Committee and they had hired an arborist. New trees are actively being considered for planting as well as smaller plantings to be interspersed with the lawn area.

A small area of the proposed path is under the Commission's jurisdiction near the tennis courts. Jim Hankin said he thought the conditions provided under the existing permit would provide appropriate protection.

Motion made by Tom Myers to allow the revision as a minor change, de minimis, of the existing Order of Conditions for the matter at the Pingree School for the installation of the foot path.

Virginia Cookson seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Notice of Intent for Weaver Pond at Patton Park hydro-rake and herbicide nuisance vegetation. Continued from December 12, 2018.

At the time of the December 2018 hearing, the DEP file number had not been issued, but had recently been issued with no comments, according to Jim Hankin.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to close the public hearing for the Notice of Intent for Weaver Pond at Patton Park.

Seconded by George Tarr.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Jim Hankin recalled that the Wetlands Protection Act had been amended in the last two or three years to allow resource area restorations, which covers this project. Technically the Commission was voting for Restoration Order of Conditions for Weaver Pond via hydro-rake and herbicide application. Richard Luongo noted the pond was not as bad as in previous years. Mr. Hankin said invasive aquatic weeds were prevalent just under the surface, which could be viewed up close.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to issue a Restoration Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act and Hamilton By-law for DEP file number 172-0606 for the restoration of Weaver Pond at Patton Park by the use of hydro-raking and herbicide treatment to be done by the Hamilton DPW.

Seconded by Tom Myers.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Minutes November 28, 2018 and December 12, 2018

Motion made by Tom Myers to accept the minutes of November 28, 2018 and December 12, 2018.

Seconded by George Tarr.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Discussion Items:

9.1 acres of Open Space adjacent to Patton Ridge mowing and vegetation management.

Memorandum of Understanding.

To be discussed at the next meeting.

MACC Conference Registration. March 2, 2019.

Jim Hankin asked members to submit their seminar requests.

Commissioners list of topics for meeting of February 13, 2019.

Coordinator's Report.

Jim Hankin updated the Commission about Town Hall renovations. An architect was hired to determine the renovations and once plans were approved, the Commission office and meetings would temporarily not be within the existing Town Hall building. The Town Meeting vote regarding the proposal would likely not be held at this Annual Town Meeting but rather in the fall or next spring. Virginia Cookson noted that funds from the CPC would be used.

Adjournment

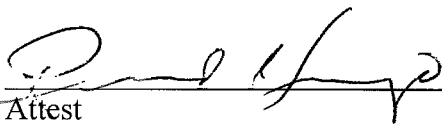
Motion to adjourn made by Bob Cronin.

Seconded by Virginia Cookson.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Prepared by:

Marcie Ricker

X 
Attest

2/13/19

Date

