

HAMILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 12, 2019

Memorial Room, Hamilton Town Hall

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

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

**Request for Determination. 255 Woodbury St. Nichole and Winnie Gray. Construct a wooden retaining wall within 100' of the wetlands.**

Winnie Gray described the location. Virginia Cookson requested more detail on the plan including labels with where the house, driveway, and road were located. Mr. Gray was willing to install hay bales and provide a plan with the requested features included. Richard Luongo said the hay bales should be where runoff occurred. The construction would be pressure treated 6" x 6" timbers.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to issue a negative determination under the Wetlands Protection Act and under the Hamilton By-law to allow the work proposed by Nichole and Winnie Gray at 255 Woodbury St., Hamilton.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Ms. Cookson wanted the determination to reference the plan and that the applicant would submit a plan showing the relationship to the house with the work to be done and the driveway. The proposed erosion control would extend between where the runoff was from on the site going perpendicular and extending further each way to prevent erosion during construction.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Certificate of Compliance 16 Chebacco Road. Richard Sommers.**

The septic system had been repaired. The Certificate of Compliance was signed.

**Discussion:**

**9.1 acres of land at the Patton Homestead.**

George Tarr discussed the site walk of the Patton Homestead. The concept was to add 6.6 acres to the land already under the Commission's control. During the site walk, the group went to the pond (not in the 9.1 acres). Mr. Tarr referred to the alcove area where the wetlands garden would be sited. Joe Domelowicz had reportedly approved of the location during the site walk.

The group went from the wood road to the beech tree. After crossing the culvert, the site walk group discussed the tank on Military History Day. Mr. Tarr said he did not want the tank to cross the culvert. The area on the west side of the culvert would return to meadow. Mr. Domelowicz reportedly agreed. According to Mr. Tarr, the group went to the canoe launch and it was noted that Tim Olson wanted to dredge each side to lower the land to have it usable further into the season. Vegetation would need to be removed on the right side and a picnic table would be located nearby. The group then walked from the Greenbelt platform to the well house that was not on the 9.1 acre lot or the area to be added but owned by the Town. It would be where visitors would park to go into the area. Site walk comments included potential expansion of the four to five existing parking spaces. Mr. Tarr suggested adding a kiosk. Mr. Domelowicz reportedly used the word convey authority of the extra land to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Tarr thought it would be an informal arrangement but Mr. Domelowicz suggested voting at Town Meeting for the conveyance.

Rosemary Kennedy asked why the concept was proposed. George Tarr responded it was his idea. Mr. Tarr explained the plan presented. A possible loop trail was colored onto the plan, which needed to be resolved by the Commission. A trail would be on the additional 6.6 acres, which would lead to the 9.1 acre lot then cross the access road to Patton Ridge. The trail would need to cross the over-engineered swale possibly with a footbridge. Questions regarding who had which easements in the area were discussed. The alternative would be to go toward Asbury St., which seemed too far. Patton Ridge residents reportedly hoped visitors were as far away from the Patton Ridge development as possible. Joe Domelowicz wanted to have the area more accessible and was in favor of the proposed changes.

The canoe launch was the other major issue, according to George Tarr. A picnic table would be placed within the 100' buffer zone. According to Mr. Tarr, there was not much talk about improving the canoe launch except for dredging. Mr. Tarr was concerned about moving the heavy gate at Asbury St. passed the well house to the parking area to block it from vehicle access to the canoe launch. Mr. Tarr thought that was wrong. Richard Luongo thought the wood road was an emergency access road. Virginia Cookson said a chain would be put across the entrance with an emergency key. Mr. Tarr thought it was a long way to haul a canoe. It was agreed that no one wanted general vehicle access. Mr. Tarr recalled that 40 cars could be parked up the hill in the field. The road was only a single lane but Mr. Tarr noted the infrequent use and suggested creating a turnout part of the way.

George Tarr would hear from Joe Domelowicz about approval and definition of the term "convey," then make a decision on the gate. Mr. Tarr assumed dredging at the canoe site, the placement of a picnic table, and the loop path would all be allowed. Richard Luongo suggested formalizing the three issues. Parking would be on Town property and not on the 9.1 acres or the 6.6 acres.

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## **Minutes**

Virginia Cookson made motion to accept the minutes of May 22, 2019.  
Seconded by George Tarr.  
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Other items not considered by the Chairman.**

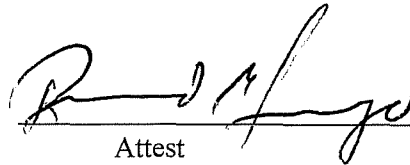
Richard Luongo noted that Foote Brothers had made changes that needed to be approved. Beaver deceivers were being installed at Pingree. The treatment of Weaver Pond had begun. The July 10, 2019 meeting location was discussed. The Commission would determine how to proceed with the meeting room schedule at the meeting of June 26, 2019.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made Bob Cronin.  
Seconded by George Tarr.  
Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 8:01 pm.

Prepared by:

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Marcie Ricker

 7/17/19  
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Attest Date