

## HAMILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF MEETING

January 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting 87847980030

Passcode 340836

Members Present: Richard Luongo (Chairman), Virginia Cookson, Chris Currier, George Tarr  
Coordinator: Bert Comins  
Others Present: David Tory, Tim Olson, DPW, Ryan McShera of Red Barn Architecture, Kristen Farr of Hancock Survey Associates, Ken Mavrogeorge, from Woodard & Curran, and Claire Hoogeboom from LEC Environmental Consultants

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

#### **Minutes of November 18, 2020 and December 9, 2020**

Virginia Cookson made a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020 as written.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Voted unanimously to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020 as written.

Virginia Cookson made a motion to accept the minutes of December 9, 2020 as written.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Voted unanimously to accept the minutes of December 9, 2020 as written.

#### **Public Hearings**

##### **Request for Determination of Applicability – David Tory – 100 Essex Street – Drainage structure repair work**

David Tory of 100 Essex Street explained that the downspouts used on his house were pottery pipes that crumbled and allowed water to get into the basement which created mold. Mr. Tory requested that the existing pipes be replaced in their current location. There are also railroad tie steps that have rotted and Mr. Tory would like to replace those with granite. Virginia Cookson expressed concern that the wetland line on the map was incomplete.

Motion made by Chris Currier to issue a negative determination of applicability.

Seconded by George Tarr.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Chris Currier – aye, George Tarr – aye, Virginia Cookson – nay.

Motion carried by majority.

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – DEP File# 172-0619 – 0 Bridge Street – Confirmation of wetland resources areas

Bert Comins reported that George Tarr, Virginia Cookson, the applicant, the wetland scientist and he did a site walk to delineate the wetlands and determined that the resource area was correct.

Motion made by George Tarr to accept the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for 0 Bridge Street.

Seconded by Virginia Cookson.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Notice of Intent --- 138-140 Echo Cove Road – William Haugh – Renovations to existing structure, expansion of deck, construction of stairs

Ryan McShera of Red Barn Architecture represented 138-140 residents, William and Ann Haugh who recently purchased the above-mentioned property. The Haugh's planned to remodel the 2 houses on the lot and when gutting the building at 138 they learned that the building was not sound. The Haugh's intention is to raise that building down to the foundation and rebuild.

Kristen Farr, a Wetlands Engineer of Hancock Survey Associates presented the Commission with the plan. For 138 Echo Cove Road, they proposed new stairs and a deck extension with stairs that would be within the 25-foot no disturb zone, both of which would be on sonitubes. Within the 50-foot no-build zone there would be 2 cantilevered additions over the existing ground. Within the rest of the 100-foot buffer zone, there would be a deck off the back with stairs.

At 140 Echo Cove Road, there would be 2 deck extensions and stairs within the 25-foot no-disturb zone. In the 50-foot no-build zone, the shed would be removed and a cantilever addition would be built on that side within the rest of the buffer zone with a proposed extension and deck off of that. Additions would include a new foundation. The total amount of permanent alteration in the 25-foot no-disturb zone would be 118 square feet. Within the 50-foot no-build zone the permanent alteration would be 93 square feet. A waiver that requested relief from the setbacks of the houses originally built in 1930 was submitted.

Motion made by Virginia Cookson to close the public hearing before the Commission issued an order of conditions.

Seconded by George Tarr.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Motion made by Chris Currier to issue an order of conditions for the work to be done as reflected on the plan presented this evening for the property located at 138-140 Echo Cove Road.

Seconded by George Tarr.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Notice of Intent – DEP File# 172-0620 – Chebacco Road ROW – Chebacco Road improvements

Tim Olson, DPW Director explained to the Conservation Commission that at the annual town meeting in 2019 a sum of \$1 million was allocated for the repaving of Chebacco Road.

Woodard and Curran were hired in July of 2019 to do the design, permitting and construction associated with the project.

Tim Olson introduced Ken Mavrogeorge of Woodard and Curran who presented the plan to the Conservation Commission.

Paving a 20-foot wide gravel road would improve public safety response times and would minimize DPW maintenance needed for residents to access the landfill, the Rod and Gun Club and the boat launch. The plan would be to maintain a country road feel and minimize the impact to the woods and native species that frequent the area. Other goals would be to reduce the amount of sediment runoff from the current gravel roadway by limiting the impact of storm water.

The entire length of Chebacco Road is 10,600 linear feet, the first 7,300 feet of which is paved and the remaining 3,400 feet is gravel. Of the 3,400 feet of gravel roadway, 2,100 feet would remain in place and be reconstructed and the other 1,300 feet would be reconstructed farther away from Gravely Pond. The new location would be the right-of-way that was granted to Hamilton from Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1964. The new section of road is currently wooded but the old road along Gravely Road would be covered with loam and seed and would naturally return back to a wooded area.

In addition to paving the road, 2 15-foot retaining walls that run along Beck Pond that are in disrepair and are causing some erosion and deterioration within the paved portion of the road would be replaced with one 20-foot wall and the other a 40-foot wall. Both walls would be pre-cast gravity walls with wooden guardrails. These retaining walls would protect the paved road by keeping water build up from going under the road.

Mr. Mavrogeorge showed the Commission photos of pavement disrepair and areas where the gravel held water and was not draining properly a few days after a rainstorm where mill and overlay are proposed. The salamander crossing where the road transitions from pavement to gravel was filled with sediment that was washed off from the gravel road. The crossing would be cleaned and replaced in kind as part of the project.

Mr. Mavrogeorge introduced Claire Hoozeboom, a Wetland Scientist with LEC Environmental Consultants to speak to resource areas and the impact to them.

Ms. Hoogeboom reported to the Commission that a wetland delineation was done along the project footprint and a notice of intent application to receive an order of conditions for the proposed project was submitted. The project was also subject to MEPA review and a certificate was issued on August 7, 2020. During the MEPA review the Mass DEP expressed some concerns and the scope of the project regarding storm water management features and where the gravel was being converted to pavement. The plan was revised to include an infiltration basin with a level spreader on the eastern side of Chebacco Road to reduce the amount of storm water that is going into Gravelly Pond.

Ms. Hoogebloom discussed proposed mitigation plans for the construction restoration and post construction of the retaining walls mentioned earlier and reported that there would be erosion and sedimentation controls, sandbags and silt socks along the limit of work. The restoration proposed 589 square feet of plantings with mixed seed in the buffer area and 6 species of compatible plugs planted in the bank restoration with some jute netting. Post construction monitoring to insure the success of the restoration area will be done as well. Ms. Hoogebloom noted that the southern terminus of the project footprint is located in the Natural Heritage mapped habitat and is subject to flooding and there is a 100-foot buffer zone that is associated with 2 vernal pools.

Proposed signage is planned on each side of the road as you enter Hamilton and on the Natural Heritage boundary to indicate the salamander crossing. Proposed erosion controls will be instituted along the entire project footprint to mitigate sedimentation or erosion that may occur during the active season for salamanders.

Ms. Hoogebloom ended her presentation with, the overall plan is for the improvement to the water quality of the downgradient resource areas and the vernal pools by reducing the erosion and sedimentation that is currently occurring from the existing gravel roadway.

Virginia Cookson questioned how an intermittent stream crosses the road to Beck Pond. It was confirmed that there are existing culverts beneath the road directing the storm water from one side of the road to the other that will stay in place with mill and overlay. Curbs would not be added to the paved roads which would allow snapping turtles to cross safely.

Abutters expressed concern with the traffic flow and the potential for a higher level of traffic and speed. Tim Olson responded that Hamilton Public Safety Divisions backed the project and that the gravel roadway has caused greater concern due to its condition and paving would make it safer for everyone. Mr. Olson agreed to reach out to the chief of police with regard to a speed study on the part of the road that is already paved. Bert Comins reminded the residents that the focus of the Conservation Commission is on wetland resource areas. Tim Olson commented further that before any construction would start, part of the process would include a public presentation that would allow abutters including Villa Road residents to express their concerns.

Relative to concerns with residents and the Conservation Commission, Ms. Hoozeboom agreed to see if DPW would be amenable to installing more signage in addition to Natural Heritage mapped areas to educate travelers about vernal pools and wildlife crossings.

Mr. Mavrogeorge told residents that they would send a pdf of the presentation to the DPW to distribute and Mr. Comins offered the meeting recording to anyone who wished to contact him.

Chris Currier made a motion to close the public hearing on notice of intent.

Seconded by Virginia Cookson.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Chris Currier made a motion to issue an order of conditions in connection with presentation made tonight for the repaving of a large portion of Chebacco Road and the installation of a new paved portion in a new area where the gravel road exists – all as presented in the meeting this evening with the usual conditions associated with our order of conditions to minimize impact during construction.

Seconded by Virginia

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

### Discussions

#### Other business

Bert Comins commented that after the agenda was posted, 3 Arabian Way denied order of conditions has been appealed to the Mass DEP.

Mr. Comins also told the Commission that there was a potential new member that was on the zoom call earlier. Mr. Comins will reach out to her and see what her thoughts are.

Virginia Cookson made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

Seconded by Chris Currier.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Luongo – aye, Virginia Cookson – aye, Chris Currier – aye, and George Tarr – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.