



Town of Hamilton
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023
Town Hall, 577 Bay Road

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Commissioners, a meeting of the Hamilton Conservation Commission was posted for July 12, 2023 at 7PM via Zoom. *This meeting was recorded.*

Commissioners: Sandy Coddling, Virginia Cookson, Kathy Simons, Deb Thompson, Lauren Lynch.

Call the meeting to order: *With a quorum present Vice -Chair Simons called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, identified the meeting was being recorded and those present: K. Simons, Vice-Chair; D. Thompson; S. Coddling, L. Lynch, Chair. Not present: V. Cookson. Also present: Brian Colleran, Conservation Agent; and others as noted in the minutes.*

Minutes: None

Public Hearings:

- **Notice of Intent, DEP # 172-0645 – 17 Postgate Rd – Replace the existing one car garage with a two-car garage.**

Kevin McHugh from Lynnbrook Consulting was present and displayed a site plan showing the home and where the garage will be constructed relative to the wetlands. It will be performed outside of the 50-foot no-build area but within the 100-foot buffer. The work will add 325 square feet to the garage and 320 square feet for the deck. There will be a small expansion of the driveway, about 34 square feet of pavement. B. Colleran noted that as part of their standard conditions the Commission prefers compost rather than straw or hay bales. The embankment will be moved slightly and replanted with ground cover and shrubs for erosion control. L. Lynch noted they have a preference for native plants. B. Colleran explained that the homeowners will be given a list of non-native invasive species that cannot be planted, rather than a list of what can be planted. He suggested the Native Plant Trust as a resource for identifying plants that are recommended for this area. S. Coddling asked whether any thought was given to giving up some lawn area for planting area to offset the new permeable area. K. McHugh noted that there is not a requirement in the bylaw for that and that also there is very little lawn available for the homeowner's use. L. Lynch asked that they continue to consider native plants.

Vote: *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll call to close the public hearing on 17 Postgate Rd.*

Vote: *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll call to issue a permit to 17 Postgate Rd. with a standard order of conditions that includes the standard prohibition on non-native species. Separately, links to native plant lists and suggestions for plantings will be provided as a courtesy.*

Requests: none

Discussions:

- **Scrivener's error - Existing Order of Conditions – DeRosa Environmental Consulting - Myopia Hunt Club, DEP # 172-0590; 57 Miles River Road, DEP # 172-0611**

B. Colleran explained that the Commissioners at the last meeting both extended and amended the Myopia Hunt Club permit, but the request was to extend, there was no request to amend. Without an enforcement order in place, the Commissioners can't issue what the applicant hasn't asked for, meaning the amendment can't happen in this case. However, the template for this order of conditions was not edited accordingly for this project, and it explicitly included a prohibition on application of herbicide. He spoke to Evin Guvendiren of DeRosa Environmental and they suggested an administrative fix, by re-wording the existing condition as a correction.

Similarly, the scrivener's error on 57 Miles River Road includes that there needs to be a pre-application meeting that would cover all the bases. In this case, the pre-application meeting would go through the details of the situation presented by this kind of project. They have not done any chemical work yet under this permit, and the corrections can be achieved. E. Guvendiren, DeRosa Consulting stated that this refers to condition 19, and noted it would be edited to describe the treatment that would happen, the dosage, and any other specifics needed.

- **Regulatory Update on Conservation By-Law**

The bylaw is officially law, it has been approved by the Attorney General's (AG) office. The comments from the AG's office included a reminder of where the limits of the law are, and an advisement of where to consult Town Counsel. B. Colleran suggested an announcement on the website, and he has started re-organizing the regulations to match the new bylaw. He will provide drafts for the Commissioners. There was some discussion about fees for violations and what amounts can be charged by the Commission. The possibility of bringing more bylaw changes to Town Meeting at a later date on the topic of climate change or water quality and other aspects was also discussed.

- **A letter dated June 21, 2023 from the Canterbrook Trustees Chair**

B. Colleran reported he spoke to the Canterbrook Trustees and explained the conservation restriction and what that means. He believed the issue was resolved.

Updates:

L. Lynch asked if anyone had the opportunity to read her email about roles on the committee. K. Simons commented on an interim strategy until someone is willing to take on the role of Chair, and until there is a new agent that has been hired. She noted that someone may need to represent ConCom in the interview process for the new agent. She noted that V. Cookson has expressed some willingness to assist with aspects of the role in the interim. B. Colleran noted there is the possibility of compensation from the town if she is taking on significant time and effort. There is the possibility of utilizing the senior citizen tax work off program as well. B. Colleran suggested other payment possibilities in the course of the discussion. The issue will be added to the agenda of a future meeting,

L. Lynch asked about comments to the workflow needs of the Commission, including the tracker, touching base with the Town, the agent, finalizing agendas, and similar work. B. Colleran noted that there is unlikely to be anyone at Town Hall who has the bandwidth to take on these activities for the Commission. He noted a list of functions that will likely need to be covered.

D. Thompson stated that she has set up the Commission's Facebook page and noted she was looking for feedback on the use of the page. K. Simon expressed that this would be a good step in public education and was enthusiastic about the use of the page.

L. Lynch noted she could not attend the next meeting and D. Thompson agreed to chair the meeting. Lee McCoy will be joining the meeting as a new Commissioner.

- Next meeting: July 26.

Adjournment: Vote: *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll to adjourn at 8:24PM.*

Produced by

D. Pierotti, Recording Secretary, 4.30.24

The minutes were prepared from video.

*Respectfully submitted as Approved at meeting of June 12, 2024 by K. Simons,
Hamilton Conservation Commission Vice Chair, on June 12, 2024*