

**Hamilton Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2011  
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Nancy Baker, Virginia Cookson, Robert Cronin, Richard Luongo (co-chair)

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Coordinator

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting:

Keith Glidden, candidate for Commission

George Tarr, candidate for Commission

The Commission is scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. on May 11 and May 25, 2011. Site walk is scheduled for Saturday morning May 7.

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Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to accept the minutes of April 13, 2011 as presented. Nancy Baker seconded the motion. VOTE: Approved 3-0-1 (Virginia Cookson abstained because she was absent from that meeting).

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin noted that prior to this meeting, he e-mailed to commissioners summaries of information about the two filings on the agenda of this meeting. He noted also that as of April 27, a site walk at 484 Bay Road is the only one scheduled for May 7.

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Request for Determination

93 School Street

William Kittredge, applicant: D.B. Johnson, designer

Install Title V compliant septic system; grading at 51', tank at 53', and field at 65' from edge of wetlands (EOW)

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin described this proposed project and displayed a site plan and Google Earth photo; he pointed out the parcel's proximity to a Town well on the opposite side of School Street. Applicant William Kittredge was not present. He proposes to replace the septic system at 93 School St. with a new one in roughly the same location, at the front corner of the house; the existing system would be crushed and filled. No changes are proposed to the existing 4-bedroom house. Wetlands at the back of the property have been flagged. Mr. Hankin said he paced off the distance from EOW to the proposed septic system on the day of this meeting and judged the septic system site is one or two feet more distant from EOW than is indicated on the plans. The plan shows a hay bale siltation barrier, which Mr. Hankin said he would inspect before work begins. The new system would have two tanks (1500 and 1000 gallons), and a pump chamber. Little grading is proposed. Mr. Hankin said given the size and constraints of the lot the proposed location appears to be the only workable site for a septic system. He said the Commission's past practice is to issue negative determinations for projects like this one.

Keith Glidden asked whether the Commission requires contractors to have spill kits on site when such work takes place; Mr. Hankin said this is not the Commission's practice. Mr. Glidden said

such kits enable equipment operators to immediately clean up a spill if, for example, a tank is punctured or a hydraulic hose ruptures. He said some commissions make a spill kit a condition of a permit, if heavy equipment will be used on a particular job for more than a certain number of days.

Nancy Baker asked why the owner wishes to replace the septic system; Mr. Hankin did not know. She asked whether a reserve area has been designated; Mr. Hankin said the plan shows none. Ms. Baker said it appears the unusual design of the proposed system is intended to meet daily flow limits, because the acreage of the property is inadequate for meeting those regulations with a conventional system. She noted that the parcel is in Zone 2, in which more stringent nutrient loading regulations apply, and said the Commission needs to protect groundwater in Ground 2 to a greater degree. She said the same issue would arise when the Commission considers the Canterbrook housing development proposal, because that property also is in Zone 2. She asked Mr. Hankin to obtain more information from applicants in the future for Zone 2 projects.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to grant a negative determination under the Wetland Protection Act and the Hamilton Conservation By Law. Virginia Cookson seconded the motion. VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Commissioners signed the determination.

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Request for Determination

42 Tally Ho Drive

Holly and Adam Regan, applicants

Construct screened in porch on sono tubes, 12x15', at 62' from edge of wetlands (EOW)

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin described this proposed project and displayed a site plan; the applicants were not present. Holly and Adam Regan propose construction of a screened porch at a corner of their existing house, where an open area now exists because the side and back of the house stop short of the corner. The porch would fill that area and extend beyond the existing side and back walls. It would be supported by 4 sono tubes, or perhaps 6. Wetlands lie beyond and behind the other back corner of the house. Mr. Hankin said he walked the property on the day of this meeting and confirmed the proposed porch would be 62' from EOW at its closest point. He said the applicants agreed to have the excavation for sono tubes done by hand. He recommended the Commission grant a negative determination.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to grant a negative determination under the Wetland Protection Act and the Hamilton Conservation By Law. Nancy Baker seconded the motion. VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Commissioners signed the determination.

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Discussion

Robert Cronin reported that repairs appear to be underway to a house on Forest St., from which the septic system was removed when the property was in foreclosure. He said he has observed no activity in the area of the septic system. He recommended that someone check on this situation.

Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin distributed a list of current commissioners and associate members, and suggested the Commission consider updating the associate member list. He noted that the commission has the authority to appoint committees, and associate members who have no voting rights. He provided brief information about the three associate members, all of whom he described as inactive. John Hendrickson, who served on the Commission for one term, stayed involved as an associate commissioner as a point person for the Commission's involvement in National Trails Day; Commission funds for this event have been exhausted and the Commission's involvement has dwindled. John Rhoads was a member and chair of the Commission for many years; he moved to Cambridge some time ago and the Commission appointed him as an associate member in order to facilitate periodic consultation with him. Mark Carleo expressed interest in joining the Commission several years ago, but was not appointed; he agreed to become an associate member, but has not been in touch with the Commission office for many months. Commissioners asked Mr. Hankin to contact the associate members to ask whether they wish to remain involved. Further discussion was deferred, pending the associate members' responses.

Discussion of whether to change the fee structure was placed on the agenda of the meeting of May 11.

Robert Cronin made a motion for the Commission to adjourn, at 8:05 p.m. Virginia Cookson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Minutes submitted April 28, 2011 by Ann Sierks Smith