



TOWN OF HAMILTON Conservation Commission

POLICY STATEMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING LENGTH

INTRODUCTION

In the exercise of their legal authority under the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131 §40, “WPA”) and General By Laws of the Town of Hamilton Chapter 17 (“Conservation”) the Commission issues this policy to provide guidance to applicants and others on the amount of time the Commission may dedicate to the exercise of its duties in any given Public Meeting.

Based on past experiences, Public Meetings and Hearings that take place more than three hours after the opening of a Hamilton Conservation Commission meeting and / or after 10 PM, receive significantly less attention than they deserve, due to the natural and expected mental and physical exhaustion that three hours of technical document and argument review imposes upon Commissioners. Therefore, the Commission advises all Applicants and Interested Parties of the following:

MEETING LENGTH

On or after 10 PM, OR three hours after the beginning of any Public Meeting, the Commission may choose to continue any unaddressed items on the agenda on a stated date and at a stated time, to be no later than the evening prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton Conservation Commission, and shall be scheduled prior to the close of the meeting that exceeded 10 PM OR the three hour window.

PROACTIVE MEETING MANAGEMENT

Whenever possible, the review of larger projects requiring more significant investments of time and energy to review will be scheduled in separate and dedicated Public Meetings so as to avoid the unexpected need to utilize this policy, which will be done at the discretion of the Conservation Commission’s Administrator and/or Chair, in consultation with other Commissioners and Town Officials, as appropriate.

Effective Date: 8/11/21