**Town of Hamilton**

**Conservation Commission**

Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2025

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Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Commissioners, a remote meeting of the Hamilton Conservation Commission was posted for June 11, 2025 at 7:00PM via Zoom. *This meeting was recorded.* Commissioners: Sandy Codding, Virginia Cookson, Denise Kelly, Nancy Baker.

**CALL TO ORDER The Interim Chair convenes the meeting pending the establishment of a quorum. The following items shall be addressed in order, subject to the discretion of the Chair and the Members**

*Chair Nancy Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She identified the meeting was being recorded and those present:* V. Cookson, S.Codding, N.Baker, D.Kelly. Also present: Bethany Barstow, Conservation Agent. Others present as noted in the minutes.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS & HEARINGS:**

**Amended Order of Conditions: MassDEP #172- 0625, Bridge Street & Miles River Road, Hamilton, MA.**

**Applicant: Timothy Olsen**

**Representative: Matthew Perry, The Engineering Corp**

**Project: Minor changes to the layout and location of the drainage system and to detail proposed pavement maintenance activities. Most of the proposed work is located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, and the 200-foot Riverfront Area.**

The applicant requested the application to be continued to the July 9, 2025 meeting.

**Vote:** *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll call to continue the public hearing to July 9, 2025.*

**Request for Determination of Applicability: 448 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA.**

**Applicant: Henry Phillip**

**Project: proposed construction of a split rail fence -Most of the proposed work is located within the 100-foot Buffer-Zone.**

H.Phillip showed a site plan and explained the proposed project to install a three-rail split rail fence with mesh wire to keep their dogs in. The fence would cross the 100-foot buffer, and the 50 foot and 25 foot no disturb zone for a short distance. The wetlands were delineated approximately two years ago. V.Cookson noted that by her calculations there is approximately 140 feet of fence in the no disturb zone, and questioned why it needed to be that close to the wetland. H.Phillips replied that they were following the line of vegetation. He confirmed they will not be disturbing any trees. They are willing to leave some space at the bottom of the fence to allow wildlife to cross (4-6”). N.Baker noted fencing is allowable under the Wetland Protection Act as long as is does not impede wildlife. It is also subject to the bylaw. The Board preferred keeping the fence out of the no-disturb zone, and the applicant agreed to make the adjustment.

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

**Vote:** *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll call to issue a negative determination provided that the fencing is relocated to outside the 25 foot no disturb zone at the closest approach to the wetland and the fence base and mesh is elevated at least 6 inches to provide wildlife crossing beneath the fencing.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes on topics not already on the agenda)**

There was none.

**MINUTES: May 14, 2025**

**Vote:** *The Commissioners voted by roll call to approve the minutes of May 14, 2025.*

**ENFORCEMENT ORDERS/VIOLATIONS:**

* B.Barstow reported on her visit to the High School Athletic Fields project today regarding a complaint from the previous chair, who is no longer serves on the Commission. The complaint was about erosion control problems and piles of dirt not being properly contained. She confirmed the erosion control was disintegrating near the softball field, and there were wood chips being used as the erosion control, which is stated in the conditions not to be used.

The dirt piles were very steep, and she told them they needed to compact and contain the piles appropriately immediately, as well as change the erosion control immediately. They are to send documentation and what type of erosion control has been implemented. She will revisit the site next week to ensure it has all been corrected. The Commissioners agreed to wait until the following week to find out if the instructions have been followed.

* Chair Baker stated there was a series of pictures posted to Facebook showing significant erosion happening at the Bridge St properties. V.Cookson reported she looked at the site and did not see that there were problems. B.Barstow stated the hay bales in use seemed to be disintegrating and appeared insufficient. The pictures will be circulated, and V.Cookson will attempt to meet with the Town Manager to discuss.

**New Business:**

* **Tree Removal Form:** The Commissioners reviewed a draft tree removal form and generally felt it was clear and straightforward and would like it to be implemented. B.Barstow will make it a fillable pdf form.

***Vote*:** *The Commissioners voted by roll call 3-1-0 to approve the tree removal form. (V.Cookson opposed)*

* The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for June 25, 2025, and a new potential member will introduce himself.

**Adjournment –** *The Commissioners voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at approximately 8:00pm.*

*Documents:*

1. [*Amended Order of Conditions – Miles River Road and Bridge Street ,*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/T1093_Request-for-Amended-Order-of-Conditions_Hamilton-ConCom.pdf)[*Attachment A*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Attachement-A-Bridge-Street-and-Miles-River-Road-Revised-NOI-Plans-2021-7-7.pdf)*,*[*Attachment B,*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Attachment-B-Hamilton-Bridge-St-and-Miles-River-Rd-2025-2-28.pdf)*Attachment C,*[*Email Correspondence.*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/email-Bridge-Street.png)
2. *Request for Determination of Applicability –*[*448 Bay Road Site Plan*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Philip-SDP-448-Bay-Road-Site-Plan.pdf)*,*[*Application*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Interim-RDA-Form-Final-Draft-448-Bay-Road.pdf)
3. *Meeting Minutes Review :*[*5.14.2025*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/TOH-CC-5.14.25_dp-002.pdf)
4. [*Tree Removal Draft Application*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Tree-Removal-Application-002.pdf)
5. [*Planting List*](https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Buffer-zone-plantings-PDF-1.pdf)

*Respectfully submitted by D. Pierotti, Recording Secretary, 6.14.25.*

*The minutes were prepared from video.*