

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**A. CALL TO ORDER****B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Paul Melanson; James Kibler, Co-Chairman; Cathy Golas; Shawn Hanson; Mary Ann Hill, Chairwoman.

Non-voting: Karen Ayers, Alternate

Absent: Robert Wiener; Ann Reis; Nancy Roka, Alternate; Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Representative

Guests: Shannon Alther

C. PRESENTATION: Shannon Alther presented a plan to build a 3-car garage for the house at 51 Depot Road, Map 2 Lot 102, on 7.2 acres next to the salt marsh. This lot is partially in a Prime Wetland buffer and the proposed garage would be in the buffer. The house was constructed in 1984 so it predates both the State's Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, and the Town's delineation of Prime Wetlands.

Currently, 2,500 SF are asphalt driveway and parking area. 1,070 SF of that asphalt would be replaced by a three-car garage and the remaining 1,430 +/- SF would be pervious pavers. The garage would connect to the existing structure through a mud room and stairway approximately midway along the length of the existing building such that there would be a gap running between the back of the garage and the rest of the house.

There is a separate guest house on the property which has large ground level space which could potentially be used for three cars.

J. Kibler has no major objections to the project. Chairwoman Hill expressed concern about runoff from two roofs into the gap behind the garage. She was also uncomfortable with building another structure on the property when there was the option of adapting the unused space in the guest house.

J. Kibler made a motion that we draft a letter saying the Commission has no major objections but does have some reservations about certain aspects of the project, especially water runoff, and that application needs to be made to DES, and they should plan to appear before the ZBA for a variance. S. Hanson seconded. Motion passed.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Violation at 39 Old Stage.** Chairwoman Hill sent a violation complaint to DES. The property owner also contacted the DES. Eben Lewis sent us a copy of the letter he sent to the property owner saying that he had received a complaint, and that, yes, the homeowner did need a permit for building on the property close to the Taylor River.
2. **Marsh Lane:** The Road Agent, Russ Hilliard, has been asked to relocate the dog sign to the middle of the path to deter the RV drivers. We should make our "No Motor Vehicles Allowed" sign bigger. Now is the time to get some wood chips on the Right-of-Way while the ground is dry. J. Kibler has the name of someone who can give us some wood chips. More invasive plants were removed from around the parking area and deeper into the property. It was decided to let the Goldenrod take over rather than try planting shrubs.

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3. **Raspberry Farm:** RCCD applied foliar herbicidal spray to the Bittersweet and Honeysuckle around the edge of the field. The two interns have been cutting out the Autumn Olive so RCCD can apply stump treatment. They are also removing any Bittersweet that was untouched by the spray. Chairwoman Hill met with the owner of Salty Paws and talked about dog issues. The owner was very agreeable and said it was her policy to do what works for the Conservation Commission, so she was invited her to come to a future Conservation Commission meeting.
4. **Mitigation:** S. Hanson emailed the trustee for the Brady property about purchasing the 109- acre parcel on the Taylor River but got no response. He will send a letter to the address the Tax Collector has on file.
5. **Citizen's Guide to Understanding Hampton Falls' Land Use Regulations That Protect Critical Water Resources:** Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator, emailed that she has almost completed all the updates.

E. REPORTS:

1. **SHEA:** Working on annual photo contest; the salt marsh exhibit is in Seabrook; work on the marsh management plan is ongoing; looking to hire an Executive Director to help Rayann Dionne; the beach in Hampton is still off limits to people where the plovers are nesting.
2. **Depot Landing:** P. Melanson has been assigned the job of looking into doing a 'living shoreline' to repair the damage done by boat wakes.
3. **Green Head Traps:** C. Golas reported that David Gandt and the Girl Scouts put the traps out and will bring back in in September.
4. **Clay Brook Forest:** J. Kibler reported that Brian Comeau had created a Management Plan for the forest. There will be a limited harvest in 2023 or 2024. He wants to get a grant for invasive plant removal. He also reported that there has been damage done and wildlife cameras were stolen. He is also going through with the lot line adjustment he discussed earlier in the year.
5. **Financial Reports:**
 - a. Conservation Commission fund balance: \$160,907.96
 - b. Budget balance: \$8,314

F. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: June 14, 2022 and July 12, 2022. S. Hanson made a motion to approve minutes from both dates, J. Kibler seconded. Motion Passed.

F. AJOURNMENT: S. Hanson made a motion to adjourn, J. Kibler seconded. Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED September 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

These minutes prepared by Mary Ann Hill, Chairwoman.