

Enfield Conservation Commission
Lockehaven Road, Enfield
Site Meeting August 16, 2016

Present: Shirley Green; Sue Hagerman; Dwight Marchetti; Alan Strickland, Chairman; Jerold Theis; Paula Gillen, Recorder

Guests: Jim Taylor, Director, Enfield Dept. of Public Works; Matthew Knittle; John Downing; Pete Hugo; Tim Sample

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Site Meeting: John Downing, Map #12, Lot #021, Lockehaven Road, Wetlands Permit Application

Mr. Strickland provided the background information, stating Boys Camp Road has a 36" culvert. The size of the proposed culvert on the subject property is 36". Oak Hill Road Road's culvert is 24", but does not receive water from Oak Hill Road or the north side of Lockehaven Road, because their water is diverted away from entering that 24" culvert. These diverted waters will re-enter the system below the junction of Oak Hill and Lockehaven Roads. In summary, almost all water from the uphill side of the proposed driveway comes from all of Oak Hill ditches and all of Lockehaven ditches, which together are funneled into the existing natural seasonal stream. Thus the natural stream is greatly enhanced by Oak Hill and Lockehaven runoff. The intersection is about 100ft uphill from the proposed driveway and culvert. All water ends in Crystal Lake.

While viewing the proposed culvert site, Mr. Marchetti inquired why a 3-foot culvert was recommended. Mr. Knittle replied that a wetlands specialist soil scientist recommended that size in the 120 sq ft subject area to adequately accommodate the historically-recorded water amounts. The 16-foot-long culvert is recommended to facilitate future driveway installation across the seasonal stream.

Mr. Downing stated the culvert will be placed in the seasonal stream bed with minimal disruption to the surrounding area. Of note, Mr. Downing is a professional excavator and performed the culvert installation at Hawley Drive.

Mr. Marchetti reiterated that Town runoff adds to the water on the property. Conservationists' concern is to stop Crystal Lake pollution by reducing the amount of sediment coming into the lake.

Mr. Downing agreed to the usefulness of sediment step-pools as well as their required maintenance with regular silt clean out.

Mr. Knittle, as the property owner, expressed his concerns with the impact on these 120 sq ft and voiced his willingness to follow conservative steps to lower any changes to this area.

Mr. Marchetti related Crystal Lake's history of receiving sediment secondary to the Town diverting water onto private property, causing potentially catastrophic damage. Citing the case of Henry Cross on Hawley Drive, Mr. Marchetti stated the Town admitted liability and paid for remediation, including channeling water away and bringing in stone. Mr. Marchetti asserted that Crystal Lake is getting worse all the time, with each new culvert having potentially hazardous consequences. In the big picture, he stated, water running down the right side of Lockhaven Road picks up sediment which enters Crystal Lake. Simply put, he stated he is trying to save the Lake.

Mr. Knittle inquired how his culvert would increase sediment, to which Mr. Marchetti replied that headers would be focused into the culvert, with water forced through at a gathering point.

Mr. Taylor explained evidence shows culverts need to be of adequate size to prevent catastrophic failure. They need to be sized for potential storms. The Town needs to get water off the road and ditches are a straight trough. Step-pools are beneficial but land is needed for their installation. As an aside, Mr. Hugo stated he owns 22 acres on Hawley Drive and will speak to Mr. Taylor about this.

Ms. Green suggested that too much dirt is being used on the roads, contributing to lake sediment. Mr. Taylor replied the Town needs to balance this issue with the needs of travelers on unsafe roads.

Ms. Green inquired about the need for a driveway on the site. Mr. Knittle stated the 6-acre lot needs access. It is a buildable, accessible lot, out of current use, per the Town. He wishes to sell the property to Mr. Downing.

In view of the ongoing discussion regarding culverts, Mr. Taylor suggested the Conservation Commission implement a watershed study to identify the source of the silt problem. If the Town is found to be responsible for Crystal Lake silt, it will need to change its practices. However, changes in properties on the Lake with paved driveways and manicured lawns could also be the culprit. Ms. Green states she is working on procuring a grant to fund such a study.

To summarize, Mr. Strickland stated that Mr. Knittle and Mr. Downing did not object to Town water running onto the property. Their scientist recommended a 36' culvert. Mr. Knittle and Mr. Downing have chosen the most level location for the culvert. Mr. Downing suggested placement of a sediment pool on entering the property from Oak Hill Road. If trees are cut their root systems will be left intact. Mr. Taylor explained that tree cutting along the culvert location would allow light into the area which would lead to a boom of plant vegetation which would slow water flow and reduce siltation.

Ms. Hagerman moved to approve the expedited permit for this location. Mr. Marchetti seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Marchetti to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Strickland and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.