

**Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2017, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, John Kerrick, John Patterson, Francie Von Mertens, Robert Wood; Town Administrator Rodney Bartlett; David Macy, MacDowell Colony

August's meeting minutes were approved.

Riverfront parking lot and park – Rodney Bartlett

Town Administrator Rodney Bartlett updated the Commission on park and parking lot plans. Estimates came in 30% over Town Meeting approved \$1 million, with design consequences not yet known.

Commission members expressed concern that the infiltration/detention chambers under the parking lot are engineered for 20-year storm threshold, with overflow discharge directly into river.

Lighting design not yet finalized, but Commission concern over trespass to river is being addressed.

Hardscape in the 50-foot river buffer, by code to remain naturally vegetated, remains a concern given paved paths, steps to river, large boulders placed as design feature that blocks views of parking lot. Regarding plans for lighting the rocks, members cited town lighting code that prohibits upward directed lighting.

David Macy spoke to the park and parking lot creative design features, including innovative patterned, pervious concrete in place of asphalt for the parking lot surface.

Rodney said he would keep the Commission informed of progress.

Projects:

Minimizing plastics in town waste stream

Von Mertens reported on Lincoln MA efforts to ban sale of plastic water bottles in town. Having just one market simplifies the challenge. Donelan's resisted, but then voluntarily began selling water in cardboard containers. This suggests outreach rather than bans can have success.

Von Mertens will speak with Peter at Roy's about offering cardboard boxes as alternate to bags and having cashiers thank people for bringing their own bags.

Regarding plastic water bottles, suggestion: Recycling center set aside a weeks worth of water bottles, bundle them, and ConCom places on Town House plaza. This in concert with town offering water bottles.

Chemical lawn treatments Regarding neonicotinoid systemic insecticides as a standard lawn treatment, outreach efforts were discussed. Preliminary response from Rodney Bartlett is that the town doesn't use them. Von Mertens asked people to take photos of signs that must be posted for 24 hours when chemicals are applied. She showed ones from the hospital and a local funeral home. Imidacloprid, the most common "neonic" applied—from corn and soy to lawns—is in process of being banned in Canada. EU countries as well.

Neonics are systemic, meaning they stay with a plant to be picked up by pollinators. Runoff carries them into waterways.

Von Mertens will continue research with the goal of community outreach.