

**Freetown Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, March 7, 2016 Meeting  
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.



**Present:** Keven Desmarais, Janine Robidoux, and Charles Sullivan.

**Absent:** Christopher Mather and Maria Ternullo.

**Call to order:** Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of January 25th were received but not acted on.

**Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Aduke Way (Lot 1), Assonet**

**Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Aduke Way (Lot 2), Assonet**

Mr. Desmarais stated the applicant's engineer had requested a continuance of both hearings to the next available meeting date. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to March 21st at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Extension of Order of Conditions –1 Dakota's Way, E. Freetown**

A letter was received from the property owner, Manuel Gracie, requesting a three-year extension of his Order of Conditions issued June 10, 2013. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the three-year extension to June 10, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Amendments to Project – 19 Cliff Drive, Assonet**

Jen Bowdoin and Gerry Corriveau were present to request three changes to their previously-approved project at 19 Cliff Drive in Assonet Bay Shores.

- Move upper retaining wall closer to lower retaining wall, with the intent of having more of a yard closer to the house. Commissioners saw no major issues with this change.
- Reposition upper stairs. Commissioners saw no issues with this change, either.
- Replace jute mesh, loam, and seed on top or riprap with intermittent plantings between boulders. Mr. Desmarais asked how this will stabilize the hill. Mrs. Bowdoin says there will be soil between the boulders, and that they are concerned the loam and seed would just wash away. Mr. Desmarais said the engineer designed a system with appropriate jute mesh and other precautions. Mrs. Bowdoin said the plan looks like the jute mesh is under the soil, and that contractors they have shown the plans to agreed with this interpretation and thought the plan was not good. Mr. Desmarais said the jute mesh would be on top of the loam and seed. He cautioned that if this change was allowed, the Commission could at any time require reversion to the original plan. Mrs. Bowdoin understood. Mrs. Robidoux asked if the alternative plan did not work, would the Conservation Commission be liable for any erosion or problems. Mr. Desmarais said no, it would be on the homeowners.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to allow the changes with the condition that if the plantings were not properly controlling erosion, the Conservation Commission may require reversion to the original specifications of jute mesh, loam, and seed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – "Algonquin", South Main Street, Assonet**

Brandon Carr and Ray Lavey were present to discuss the project. Mr. Carr stated that the entire property (formerly Guimond's Farm and later Algonquin SNG) was delineated approximately fifteen years prior when preparing for the Stop & Shop warehouse. They are essentially re-checking the remaining vacant property, and making minor updates where wetlands areas appear to have changed naturally. They have been a little conservative to ensure accuracy, erring on the side of expanded wetlands rather than eking out more upland.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the reservoir pond, and why it did not appear to be included. Mr. Carr stated they did not include the pond as they believed it to be manmade and not a qualifying wetland. Mr. Desmarais cautioned that he did not believe it was originally manmade, and that other industrial developments in town have had issues where ponds that were manmade had evolved into natural ponds. Mr. Carr saw no issue with revisiting the pond and treating it as a natural pond.

Mr. Desmarais stated the project would need to go for outside review.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Amended Order of Conditions – 0 Chace Road ("Gurney Farm"), East Freetown**

Steve Long was present from Borrego Solar Systems, who have taken over the solar project at the DeMoranville farm on Chace Road. They are primarily looking to remove all drainage swales and detention ponds from the project, as part of realigning the panels from magnetic north to true north. Mr. Desmarais noted that the original applicants, TJA, had an extensive review from the D.E.P. and had added considerable drainage features to appease D.E.P.'s concerns; this proposal seemed to revert back and run contrary to what D.E.P. has asked for for stormwater management. Mr. Long stated that Borrego's studies have shown that the land slopes naturally and there was not a need for the drainage systems originally proposed. Mr. Desmarais again countered that D.E.P. is on record asking for the original setup.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Bills**

Bills for Environmental Partners for engineering services related to Lamb's Village were paid.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Robidoux, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk