



**TOWN OF FREETOWN**  
**Conservation Committee**

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK

2020 OCT 16 AM 9:44

*J. Brown*

3 North Main Street/P.O. Box 438, Assonet, MA 02702-0438

PHONE: 508-644-2201; FAX: 508-644-3342

**MEETING MINUTES: Thursday, February 20, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

**Location: Town Hall - 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA 02702**

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**PRESENT:** Keven Desmarais, Chairman, Maria Ternullo, and Christopher Mather

**ABSENT:** Charlie Sullivan, Janine Robidoux

**ALSO PRESENT:** Senior Clerk Catrina Goncalves, Senior Clerk Mike McCue

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**Meeting called to order at 7:20 PM.**

**1. Meeting with Forester and Town Forest Committee**

Mr. Desmarais announces Stephen Chandler of the Town Forest Committee will be recording this portion of the meeting and introduces Mr. Phil Benjamin, of Benjamin Forestry Services. The Forestry Management Plan has been prepared by Benjamin Forestry Services with Grant Money acquired by the Town.

Mr. Benjamin and his associate, Tom Farrell address the committee. Mr. Benjamin states he has prepared the plans and scanned them to the Town. In regards to the Porter Pasture, he is here to discuss a proposal of forest management. Mr. Farrell opines that due to the amount of mature trees, there is very little sunlight and resources getting through to the forest floor resulting in Midstory and Understory Tree Species. The resilience of the forest is best when you have a diversity of tree classes as well as age classes, and in order to allow more sunlight, the plan is to thin out the forest. The Betsey Tabor Wildlife Sanctuary included a bird habitat assessment plan and the past owner has done some forestry management and removed some trees.

In order to be paid by the DCR, the committee is asked to sign the plans. Mr. Desmarais questions the cost of removal of the trees as the plan would require the hiring of a Forester, and if it would require an RFP. Mr. Benjamin answers an RFP is not required as there is a \$5,000 or \$10,000 threshold and the cost to complete the proposal would only be around \$120 per acre.

Mr. Chandler stops the Audio Recording.

**2. Hearings Scheduled, Applicant has requested a Continuance in Advance**

Continued Notice of Intent, 0 Will's Way, Assonet - Request to continue to March 9, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

**MOTION: Motion to continue to March 9th, made by Ms. Ternullo, seconded by Mr. Mather, Unanimously Approved.**

Continued Notice of Intent, 3 Quarry Drive, Assonet - Request to continue to March 9, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

**MOTION: Motion to continue to March 9th made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Ms. Ternullo, Unanimously approved.**

**3. Continued Request for Determination of Applicability - 76 Quanapoag Road, E. Freetown (Map 254, Lot 9)**

Engineer Dean Smith of Borrego Solar Systems addresses the committee. Mr. Smith displays plans illustrating that the work will be completed more than 100 feet outside of the buffer zone of Bordering Vegetative Wetlands.

Discussion between Mr. Smith and Mr. Desmarais regarding not filing a formal Notice of Intent, since all the work scheduled is outside the 100 foot buffer zone. Mr. Mather questions if the work performed will expose the soil and silt, if a storm occurs, the runoff can contaminate the wetlands if it is not properly protected. A plan regarding erosion control is requested. Ms. Reynolds of Quanapoag Road, questions the soil runoff. Mr. Smith answers they will have a construction general permit, including Town permits as well as approval from the EPA on the federal level. A series of Perimeter Erosion Control measures will be in place, so when the site is under construction, and the soil is disturbed, the silt will stay on site.

Mr. Smith will attend the Conservation Commission meeting on March 9th.

**4. Continued Notice of Intent - 45 & 63 Braley Road, East Freetown, (Map 242, Lots 124 and 125)**

Engineer Dean Smith of Borrego Solar Systems addresses the committee. Mr. Smith states there has not been any changes made from the original drawings. Brooke Monroe, Consulting Biologist for the Town and Julie Goodwin of Prime Engineering, will be on site tomorrow. As a road will cross the wetland area, the plans indicate the general area for replication. The excavation materials from the impact area will be used for the replication area. Full Storm Water Modeling, Storm Water Treatment and Perimeter Erosion Control will also be in place. A privacy wall is to be built, as the driveway is near the adjacent residences. Mr. Smith will attend the Conservation Board Meeting on March 9th.

**MOTION:**

**Motion made by Mr. Mather to continue the public hearing for 45 & 63 Braley Road to March 9th, seconded by Ms. Ternullo, Unanimously approved.**

**5. Request for Determination of Applicability - 15 Elm Street, Assonet (Map 211 Lot 59)**

Engineer Jaime Bissonette of Zenith Engineering addresses the Committee. Mr. Bissonette displays the plans illustrating the work to be done is out of the 50 ft Buffer Zone. Erosion Control is in place.

**MOTION:**

**Motion made by Mr. Mather for a Negative Determination #3, Seconded by Ms. Ternullo, Unanimously Approved**

**6. Request for Determination of Applicability, 18 Ashley Avenue, Freetown, MA. (Map 243 Lot 86)**

Jaime Bissonette of Zenith Engineering addresses the Committee. Mr. Bissonette states all work is being done outside the 50ft Buffer. Mr. Desmarais questions if the work is being done outside the 75ft buffer, it will need a variance from the Board of Health. Existing septic system will be decommissioned.

**MOTION:**

**Motion made by Ms. Ternullo for a Negative Determination #3, Seconded by Mr. Mather, Unanimously approved.**

**7. Requests for Certificates of Compliance**

None

**8. Old Business**

None

**9. New Business**

Discussion on additional potential Town Meeting articles

\$3,000 to cover Tree Service out of the Land Fund; ask Selectman to appoint 2 alternate committee members in the event the Conservation Commission does not have a quorum.

Request to extend Order of Conditions - 8 East Chipaway Road/Bolton Cedar Swamp

**MOTION: Motion Made by Ms. Ternullo to extend Order of Conditions to April 10, 2023, seconded by Mr. Mather, Unanimously approved.**

Right of First Refusal 107 Chase Road, Parcel 241-040

Mr. Desmarais states we do not want the Parcel

**10. Receive Minutes/Receive Schedule of Bills Paid**

**MOTION:**

**Motion made by Ms. Ternullo to approve meeting minutes of 1/27/20, seconded by Mr. Desmarais. 2-0. Mr. Mather abstained.**

**11. Any other Business property to come before the commission**

Chairman Desmarais states that Mr. Jose Soares, of Chace Road (Baystate Drywall), had initially submitted an RDA for an addition. He was issued a permit. In the course of doing the work, the engineer had identified some areas. Mr. Desmarais spoke with the DEP and rather than require a filing of a Notice of Intent, they were required to file a Restoration Plan. As the area is greater than 5000 feet, it would require a federal permit, which is costly. The DEP recognized if the wetland area is to be filled in, a Restoration Plan is all that is needed

**MOTION:**

**Motion made by Mr. Mather to allow endorsement of the Enforcement Order asking for a Restoration Plan to be filed within 60 days, seconded by Ms. Turnello. Unanimously approved.**

**Sammy's Lane Enforcement Order**

The original order required the proper reconstructing of the road by January 8, 2019. The owner has called to explain the reasons why it was not done, though he has not stated the reasons in writing as he was asked. Mr. Desmarais states the committee will send an Enforcement Order.

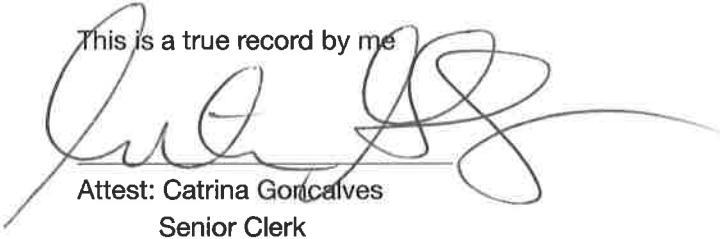
**MOTION:**

**Motion to send Enforcement Order to Sammy's Lane, made by Ms. Ternullo, seconded by Mr. Mather, Unanimously approved.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion made by Mr. Mather to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ms. Ternullo, Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM**

This is a true record by me

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catrina Goncalves', written over a horizontal line.

Attest: Catrina Goncalves  
Senior Clerk