

**Town of Freetown
Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Monday, November 27, 2023 Meeting
Held hybrid, at the Police Station Community Room, and over Zoom

Present in Person: Charles Sullivan

Present over Zoom: Margaret French and Christopher Mather

Absent: Steven Tripp

Call to Order: Charles Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Note: As this meeting was conducted virtually and members participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.

Continued Notice of Intent – 30 Island Road Extension

Mr. Sullivan explained that the report from Fisheries and Wildlife had not been received.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to open the public hearing and to continue to the next meeting on December 11, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 4 Huron Avenue

Jason Youngquist from Outback Engineering explained that the proposed project is a sunroom addition at 4 Huron Ave and a garage across the street on a separate parcel. Proposed garage will go next to the septic system. The garage is for storage and art studio on second floor above garage.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to approve plans as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 90 South Main Street

Mr. Sullivan explained that the legal ad was not placed within the proper time frame.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to continue to the December 11, 2023 public hearing at the Police Station. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 4 Algonquin Way

Nyles Zager from Zenith Engineering explained that there is an existing three-bedroom home. There are wetlands that run along the Southerly side of the lot and a high-water table. Main work will be performed in the back yard and would be some tree removal. It is outside of the 50-foot buffer zone but would have erosion control inside the 50-foot buffer. They are proposing silt sock, dewatering basins, and a presby system. It would be huge improvements to what is there currently.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 49 Winfield Street

Jeff DeTerra from DeTerra Excavation explained that there is an old retention pond for the subdivision itself; it was not maintained and has now become a wetland. It is the best they could do with the septic location because of interference with wells on other properties and the small size of the lots. Mr. Sullivan stated to keep siltation control as close to the operation. Mr. DeTerra explained that they are only coming in from one side of the house into the backyard.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 1 Ross Circle

Thomas Boucher, owner of the property, explained that the project is a detached garage in the back yard that is currently lawn. They have done work to get the wetland line delineated. Proposal for garage is outside the 25-foot buffer zone but within the 100-foot buffer.

The commission had questions. Mr. Sullivan asked if the new wetland line is less liberal. Mr. Boucher confirmed. Mr. Sullivan asked if the driveway would be asphalt and extended to the garage. Mr. Boucher confirmed that is correct. Mr. Sullivan asked about siltation control. Mr. Boucher stated that silt socks would be placed at the back of garage but would stay outside the 25-foot buffer. He added that little brush would be cleared. Ms. French asked if the garage is on slab or foundation. Mr. Boucher stated that there would be a foundation poured concrete. Mr. Mather asked for confirmation on the silt control. Mr. Boucher confirmed that silt socks would be used. Mr. Mather added that silt socks would be sufficient but should be staked out so that it does not move while the work is being performed.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to issue a negative determination #3 with the condition that silt sock be put in place. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 46 Braley Road, DEP File Number SE 026-0297

Mr. Sullivan explained that a full-time clerk is in the office and is catching up on paperwork that has never been completed. She has been working on tracking down properties for certificate of compliances and this is one of them. Victoria Alfaro stated that the work for this project has been completed.

Motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to issue complete certificate of compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to approve the 11.13.2023 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Any other business properly to come before the Conservation Commission

Mr. Sullivan explained that budget time is coming quickly and he would like input from the Commission. Mrs. Alfaro will email the budget as presented at Town Meeting and how much of the budget has been used. He asked for the board to look over the budget and check for any changes that should be made for the next budget and to discuss at the next meeting. Ms. French asked for confirmation on where Mrs. Alfaro's salary is paid out of. Mrs. Alfaro confirmed that she is paid entirely out of the Planning Board budget. Ms. French asked if they are still thinking about a Conservation agent and for everyone to think about that.

Mr. Sullivan gave an update on the 112 South Main Street violations. He stated that a hearing is scheduled for December 14, 2023 to discuss the fines. He explained that the owner either pays the fine or requests a hearing. In this instance, it becomes a criminal matter and there is a probable cause hearing. They will present the case; reason of why the fines were issued, then the court magistrate will decide if there is probable cause to move forward or to be dropped.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to adjourn meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

This is a True Record by me

Attest: _____
Nicole DeMoranville, Senior Clerk

