

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, March 22, 2021 Meeting
Held Remotely via Zoom.us

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2021 MAY 17 PM 3:41
Cheryl A. Estelle

Present: Keven Desmarais, Chris Mather, and Charlie Sullivan participated remotely via Zoom.

Absent: Keith Mello and Maria Ternullo.

Call to Order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

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

At this time, Mr. Desmarais advised anyone listening along that all plans, files, etc., to be reviewed would be available on the Town's website during the meeting. He then reviewed the public hearing process.

Continued Notice of Intent – 41 Water Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais let everyone know that this project is still pending peer review. They are working on their Notice of Intent in response to their enforcement order for this property also.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to April 12, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance - 0 Bullock Road, East Freetown

Rich Rheume from Prime Engineering was present. Mr. Desmarais states that he was able to do an inspection and there are no outstanding items.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to issue a complete certificate of compliance. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 15 North Hillside Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais explained that the applicant would like to put concrete blocks by the RV parking area to prevent erosion.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 12 Forge Road, Assonet

Chris King from Atlantic Design Engineers and Ryan Young from CVE North America were present. Adam Kran, from Environmental Partners was present. Mr. Kran stated that the condition of approval submitted by the applicant does not say the Environmental Partners needs to approve the final design to ensure they are meeting the requirements. Mr. King stated that they are amenable to adding that to the condition of approval.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to close the public hearing. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to approve the revised plan set dated February 25, 2021, with the aforementioned condition provided by the applicant with the additional language that Environmental Partners must be satisfied that their solution the stormwater standard 3. The motion carries unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 0 Rear Simmons Road. Assonet

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carries unanimously.

Jon Connell from SITEC was present. Mr. Connell stated that are proposing about 4.5 acres of solar panels. They would like to widen the existing cart path to 16 feet for safety and construction access. There is 3750-foot replication area. They are subject to the stormwater management policy because they are generating more runoff. There is an erosion control plan listed in the notes on the plans. Mr. Desmarais stated that the Commission likes to see a 25-foot buffer to the wetland, topping of trees instead, and pollinator blends. Mr. Mather asked who is ultimately responsible for the maintenance if this project is approved. Mr. Desmarais said that they could put in a condition for a biannual inspection to ensure the maintenance is being done. Mr. Desmarais asked if Mr. Connell would like to make changes before sending out to peer review? Mr. Connell stated that they would like to start peer review.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to April 12, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 9 Marie’s Way, East Freetown

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice.

Nyles Zager from Zenith Consulting Engineers was present. Mr. Zager explained a portion of the 6-acre site has wetlands on it. They are looking to construct a single-family home, with the septic system and most of the driveway is completely outside of the buffer zone and riparian zone. Only a portion of the proposed house is in the riparian zone. There is a Zone-A flood zone on the property, and they received a LOMA from FEMA. Mr. Desmarais asked if they could submit an alternatives analysis because they are in the riverfront area. Mr. Zager agreed he will send over the alternatives analysis. Mr. Mather asked if the well contractor has been hired yet. Mr. Zager said no. Mr. Mather asked if they could put an extra layer of protection such as hay bails during the construction of the well. Mr. Zager stated that they can add to the silt sock as an added protection.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to April 12, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 23-25 Gurney Road, East Freetown

Jon Connell from SITEC presented this solar array project. Mr. Connell stated that their entire scope of work is behind the existing buildings. Mr. Connell stated that there is an existing wetland crossing that they are proposing to widen and a concrete block retaining wall. There is a silt fence for erosion control. Mr. Desmarais stated that he believes there is an easement for the cart path to get to the town owned property in the back and will check with the Assessors office to get the exact wording. Mr. Desmarais asked if an array that is close to the buffer zone be moved or eliminated to create a better buffer zone to the wetland. Mr. Mather asked if the replication could be done in a different area so that less trees are cut down for replication. Mr. Desmarais stated that there is a process to do that, however they typically do that with much larger replication areas if they could not do the replication on their property. Mr. Desmarais stated that this will go to peer review.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to April 12, 2021.

Old Business

a. Response to Enforcement Order - 218 Middleboro Road

Mr. Desmarais stated the applicant has hired Farland Corp and they are preparing the Notice of Intent for the Commission.

Minutes

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carries unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: 
Victoria D'Antoni, Senior Clerk