

Chief C. A. Sullivan
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Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, November 29, 2021 Meeting
Held Remotely via Zoom.us

Present: Keven Desmarais, Charlie Sullivan, and Keith Mello participated remotely via Zoom.

Absent: Chris Mather

Call to Order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 – 67 Chace Road, East Freetown
Continued Notice of Intent – Off Chipaway Road, East Freetown

The applicant requested a continuance for the above projects to the first meeting in January.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to continue the public hearings to January 10, 2022. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – Mill Brook Bogs Restoration Project – Howland Road

The applicant requested a continuance to the next meeting after the site visit occurring on December 19th.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to continue the public hearing to December 20, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Non-Significance – 6 Quitticas Avenue, East Freetown

Steve Gioiosa, from SITEC/CEC Inc., explained that there was an original filing in 2019 with an approved limit of work about 5-feet from the wetlands and a filing approved earlier this year further away from the wetlands. The proposed plan change shows a limit of work in between the previous two approvals in order to have more lawn area. Mr. Desmarais explained his concern is with the riverfront area on this site. Mr. Gioiosa stated that this limit of work is less extensive than the previous filing in 2019.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, that this does not require an amended notice of intent. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 43 Water Street, Assonet

Steve Gioiosa, from SITEC/CEC Inc., presented this proposed dock and phragmites removal project. Mr. Gioiosa explained that there is 12 square feet of proposed alteration below the mean high-water mark. Mr. Desmarais stated that the Commission would like to have this project peer reviewed.

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to continue the public hearing to January 10, 2022. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 180 Slab Bridge Road, Assonet

Nyles Zager, from Zenith Consulting Engineers, presented this septic repair project. Mr. Zager explained that the resource area is all BVW, two flood zones, and riparian zone. Grading and a small portion of the tank is in the outer riparian zone, and the leeching field is outside the 50-foot buffer zone.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability – 16 Elm Street, Assonet

Nyles Zager, from Zenith Consulting Engineers, presented this septic repair project. Mr. Zager stated that this is a small lot with an intermittent stream drainage and drainage ditch on the property as well as a BVW across the way and a well on the property. The leeching field is outside of the 50-foot buffer zone.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability – 1A Estelle Avenue, East Freetown

Rick Charon, of Charon Associates, presented this septic upgrade and tree removal project. Mr. Charon explained that there are two resource areas: the buffer zone from Long Pond and a flood zone. The leeching field is out of the 100-foot buffer zone to the pond. The septic tank and the leeching field are out of the flood zone. Mr. Charon stated that they are asking for a few variances with the Board of Health that may change the plans. Mr. Desmarais recommended continuing the project due to possible plan revisions. Mr. Charon agreed to continue this application to December 13, 2021.

Notice of Intent – 0 Rear and 5 Costa Drive, East Freetown

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carries unanimously. Matt Kennedy, from Biodiversity Research Institute, presented this solar project. Mr. Kennedy stated that they are undergoing the Form C process with the Planning Board. There is approximately 2,665 square feet of BVW alteration at the proposed stream crossing. The replication of this is proposed north of the crossing. The bank resource area will not be altered. The proposed project is within the outer riparian zone. The wetland delineation has been peer reviewed through the Form C process with the Planning Board. Mr. Desmarais asked about the limit of work and the offset to the wetlands. Mr. Kennedy replied that the limit of clearing is right up against the edge of the wetlands. Mr. Desmarais stated that typically the Commission likes to ask for a 25-foot no-touch zone to the wetlands as well as topping the trees instead of complete removal. Greg Dixon, stated Krebs and Lansing Consulting Engineers, stated that they would consider topping trees outside of the fence line as long as it does not interfere with the solar panels. Mr. Desmarais stated this project is going to go through peer review.

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to continue the public hearing to December 13, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Any other business to properly come before the Commission

Mr. Desmarais stated that Kaitlyn and Victoria will be working on completing past meeting minutes. Margaret French, who is interested in joining the Commission, was present. Ms. French explained that she found the meeting interesting and wants to read about the laws related to the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Desmarais stated that he would like Ms. French to come to the next meeting and it will be more formal; they will ask her some questions.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: Victoria D'Antoni
Victoria D'Antoni, Senior Clerk