

Freetown Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Tuesday February 21, 2023
Held Hybrid via the Multi-Purpose Senior Center and Zoom

Present in Person: Keven Desmarais and Margaret French.

Present over Zoom: Charlie Sullivan.

Absent: Chris Mather and Keith Mello.

Call to Order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Note: As this meeting was conducted as a hybrid and a member participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.

Continued Notice of Intent – 92 Narrows Road

Mr. Desmarais called the public hearing back to order and stated that the applicant was unable to attend tonight however they have finished going through peer review and should be able to close at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to continue the public hearing to March 13, 2023, at 6:00pm, hybrid at the Police Station Community room and zoom.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 100B Middleboro Road

Darren Michaelis, of Foresight Engineering, was present. Mr. Michaelis stated that this is an after the fact filing and that an area was cleared. There are two remaining dying trees that they would like to remove. Some of the removal involved invasive species. Silt fence was installed.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability – 11 Washburn Road

Gabrielle Doolan, the applicant/owner, was present. Ms. Doolan stated that she would like to put up a six-foot-tall fence around her property. Mr. Desmarais asked if she would be amenable to keeping the fence six inches off of the ground to allow smaller animals to pass through. Ms. Doolan replied that she takes no issue.

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

Request for Permit Extension – 13 Estelle Avenue

Mr. Desmarais stated a request has been made by the applicant to extend this permit for five years. The Conservation Commission can only extend a permit for three years at a time. Last year, the Commission voted to extend this permit for one year. Mr. Desmarais stated this project has been going on for four years now and will go with what the Board decides but suggests extending the permit for one year and asking the applicant to come in to discuss a timeline of completion for the project. Ms. French states that she has driven by the property and it does not look like any work has been done. Mr. Sullivan asked if the applicant has been received building permits and what the status is. Mr. Desmarais stated he will have Victoria follow up with the Building Department.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to extend the permit for 13 Estelle Ave for one year. The motion carries unanimously.

Discussion and Take Action Relative to Purchasing 0 Rear Keene Road, Map 245 Lot 65

Mr. Desmarais stated that that have received correspondence from a lawyer representing Margaret Wilkinson, offering to sell her property at 0 Rear Keene Road, Map 245 Lot 65. Acquiring this parcel would add greater connectivity to the Conservation owned Betsy Taber Wildlife Sanctuary and the Nestle's Lane Conservation Area in Acushnet. The Betsy Taber Wildlife Sanctuary is a majority of uplands, and this parcel will add some wetland features. This parcel is almost completely covered in wetlands and vernal pool clusters and borders land that is deemed critical to rare and endangered species. This parcel is 6.1 acres and is being offered at its current assessed value of \$48,500. Ms. D'Antoni stated that there is a Conservation Land Fund that currently has just under \$105,000 that is dedicated to land acquisition. Ms. French stated that this seems like the

perfect parcel to purchase. Mr. Sullivan asked about where this parcel is in relation to the old Freetown screw property. Mike McCue, the Open Space Coordinator, stated that this is approximately 600-800 feet from where that was. Mr. Desmarais expressed that when the time comes, it may be worth asking for an easement to access this parcel from County Road as opposed to through the Sanctuary.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French to purchase 0 Rear Keene Road, Map 245 Lot 65, from Margaret Wilkinson for \$48,500. The motion carries unanimously.

Discussion and Take Action Relative to the Conservation Commission Cover Sheet

Mr. Desmarais stated that this cover sheet is for applicants to submit when applying to Board of Health to see if there are any resource areas within Conservation jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to allow the Planning & Land Use Administrator to sign off on the cover sheet.

Discussion and Take Action Relative to Warrant Article for 2023 ATM

Mr. Desmarais stated that they have done this article in the past, and that the rollback taxes would go to the Conservation Land Fund to support protecting open space.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to submit the article for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The motion carries unanimously.

Discussion and Take Action Relative to Ratifying Enforcement Orders

- a. 14 Washburn Road, Map 227 Lot 60
- b. 0 Braley Road, Map 247 Lot 15

Mr. Desmarais stated that both owners have contacted the Conservation Commission once made aware of their violation. Both parties intend to follow through with the required Notice of Intent filing.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to ratify the enforcement order for 14 Washburn Road and 0 Braley Road, Map 247 Lot 15. The motion carries unanimously.

Minutes

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to approve the 01.23.2023 and 02.13.2023 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carries unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria D'Antoni, Planning & Land Use Administrator