

**Town of Freetown
Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Monday, July 10, 2023 Meeting

Held hybrid, at the Multi- purpose Senior Center, 227 Chace Road, and over Zoom

Present in Person: Charles Sullivan and Margaret French.

Present over Zoom: Chris Mather.

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Charles Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

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

Reorganization of the Board

A motion was made by Margaret French, seconded by Chris Mather, for Charles Sullivan to be the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, for Chris Mather to be the Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 30 Island Road Extension

Mr. Sullivan stated the applicant needed more time to work with Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and to hire a contractor.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Margaret French, to continue the public hearing to August 14, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 34 Middleboro Road

Anthony Preston, the owner, was present. Mr. Preston stated that the pool is going on a previously disturbed area that once had a pool in the same exact location.

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

Notice of Intent – 14 Washburn Road

Jason Youngquist, of Outback Engineering, was present. Mr. Youngquist explained that the owner previously filed a Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of a new well. The owner cleared brush outside of the approved limit of work. The house also caught on fire and now they are planning to build a new house and septic system. They will loam and seed the area that was cleared and use siltation control.

John Morelli, 16 Washburn Road, stated that it was more than just brush that was cleared. Trees have been cut down in addition to the parcel across the street having a wider path than the approved 4 feet. The path may go into the neighbor's property.

Andrew Doolan, 11 Washburn Road, stated that nothing has been surveyed, and the path may go onto his property.

Mr. Sullivan stated that this hearing is for 14 Washburn Road and not the parcel across the street with the path on it. The Conservation Commission does not get involved with property line disputes. Mr. Sullivan recommends plantings within the 25-foot buffer that was cleared. The owner was in front of the Commission twice before and should have known that he needed file with the Conservation Commission for this work. Mr. Youngquist responded that not much clearing has been done within the 25-foot buffer and that plantings wouldn't be a problem. Mrs. Alfaro stated that the limit of clearing appears to be more extensive on site than what is shown on the plan and that a site visit should be done with the engineer and the Commission. The Commission

scheduled a site visit for Friday July 12th at 8:00am. Mr. Sullivan stated that they can also look at the parcel across the street to see the work that has been done there.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to continue the public hearing.

An amended motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to continue the public hearing to August 14, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Armando Ferreira, the designer of the new house, asked if the owner should be present. Mr. Sullivan replied yes, to avoid any further communication issues.

Ms. French asked about the path across the streets and if the Commission should issue a cease and desist. Mrs. Alfaro recommended waiting until after the site visit. Mr. Morelli asked what the permit for across the streets. Mr. Sullivan stated that it was for a path to the water to carry the canoe or kayak to use on the pond. Mr. Morelli stated that he has concerns with water quality because of the fire that occurred. Mr. Sullivan stated that is a Board of Health issue. Ms. French stated she would let the Board of Health know.

Minutes

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to accept the 06.12.2023 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Vote on Payroll Authorization Form

Discussion and Vote on Bills Approval Authorization Form

A motion was made by Margaret French, seconded by Chris Mather, to authorize Charles Sullivan to sign the Payroll and Bills Authorization Form. The motion carried unanimously.

Interview Steven Tripp for Vacant Member Position

Mr. Sullivan stated that Mr. Tripp has been a long-time Freetown resident and is interested in local government and willing to join the Commission. Ms. French said that the meetings are the same night as the Board of Selectmen meetings and asked if that is a problem. Mr. Tripp replied no. Ms. French mentioned possibly switching meeting days so they are not on the same night at the Selectmen's meetings. Ms. Alfaro said she will add that to the next agenda.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to recommend Steven Tripp for the vacant member position. The motion carried unanimously.

Reappoint Mike McCue to Open Space Consultant effective 07/01/2023-06/30/2024

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to reappoint Mr. McCue as the Open Space Consultant. The motion carried unanimously.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Ms. Alfaro stated that when 15 Richmond Road was conveyed to the Conservation Commission by the MBTA, they forgot to keep an area in their ownership that they plan on using for the electrical house for the railroad crossing. The MBTA asked if we could hold an off-night meeting to discuss this. The Commission stated that either July 17th or July 31st will work and to confirm with the MBTA about what will work best for them.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Margaret French, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria Alfaro, Planning & Land Use Administrator