



Soil Conservation Board Minutes – October 26, 2020

A meeting of the Town of Freetown **Soil Conservation Board** was held on **October 26, 2020** at the pavilion behind the Freetown Senior Center, 227 Chace Rd. **Present:** Keven Desmarais, Trevor Matthews, Debra Robbins

Absent: George Grunwald, Lisa Pacheco

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Chairman Desmarais called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

1. Public Hearing – 0 Smudge Wood Lot

Chairman Desmarais opened the public hearing. **Chairman Desmarais** entertained a motion to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. **Ms. Robbins** moved and **Mr. Matthews** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Byron Holmes, Holmes Engineering, explained that most work on the site will be situated near an abutting KR Rezendes parcel. Mr. Holmes said they are proposing a 40 ft wide gravel road and will be avoiding going into the wetlands.

Jim Rezendes, owner, said they are planning to extend the solar field but have not applied for solar permit yet.

Bob Perry, 76 High Street, asked that no work be done within 25 feet of the property line. Mr. Rezendes agreed to 25-foot property no-touch area around the property lines.

Chairman Desmarais said a pre-blast survey must be done. Mr. Rezendes said the fire department will be on-site during blasting and a pre-blast survey will be done. **Chairman Desmarais** said a phone tree must be created to call anyone interested parties prior to blasting.

Mr. Perry asks what happens if the blasting impacts his well. Mr. Rezendes said that they are blasting above any water table. Mr. Perry asked what happens if the blasting cracks his foundation. Mr. Rezendes said KR Rezendes will be responsible from any damage to property or wells due to blasting.

Chairman Desmarais asked how often will blasting be taking place. Mr. Rezendes said not very often with most likely no more than 15-20 blasts over 5 years.

Chairman Desmarais asked if there will be any additional vehicle trips because of this project. Mr. Rezendes said there will 200 total truck trips a day at most.

Curtis McClurkin, 68 High Street, asked that there also be a 25 foot no-touch zone at his property line as well. Mr. Rezendes said he has no problem with that. **Chairman Desmarais** said an easterly property line 25 foot setback can be a condition.

Mr. McClurkin said he has a 9 year old child and is worried about them falling down the cliff near the property line. Mr. Rezendes said there will be a fence along any embankment.

Elizabeth Dooher, 68 High Street, said she is worried about noise pollution. Mr. Rezendes said he has already been working at the adjacent site for 10 years.

Chairman Desmarais asked what the hours of operation are going to be. **Mr. Rezendes** said 7 am to 5 pm 5 days a week. **Chairman Desmarais** said no work is to be done on Saturdays without special permission from the Board.

Chairman Desmarais entertained a motion to close the public hearing. **Mr. Matthews** moved and **Ms. Robbins** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Desmarais entertained a motion to issue a permit for 0 Smudge Lot with the conditions that a pre-blasting survey is done, a phone tree is created, the hours of operation are 7 am to 5 pm 5 days a week with special permission needed to work on Saturday, and a 25 foot setback from the easterly property line. **Mr. Matthews** moved and **Ms. Robbins** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Review and Vote to Renew Permits

Chairman Desmarais explained that he went to all 6 sites and that the sites are the neatest they have ever been.

Chairman Desmarais entertained a motion to grant a 1 year renewal of the following permits:

Permit #0533 Copicut Road, property of Peter Borges

Permit #0535 Copicut Road, property of KR Rezendes

Permit #0527 South Main Street, property of KR Rezendes

Permit #0536 Slab Bridge Road, property of KR Rezendes

Permit #0530 Chace Road, property of John Mello

Permit #0529 Braley Road, property of John Mello

The motion was moved by **Mr. Matthews** and seconded by **Ms. Robbins**. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion on rate of Pay for the Soil Conservation Board Clerk

Chairman Desmarais entertained a motion that the hourly rate of pay for the Soil Conservation Board clerk match the hourly pay of the Planning Technician position. **Ms. Robbins** moved and **Mr. Matthews** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Desmarais entertained a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Robbins** moved and **Mr. Matthews** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Nils McKay
Soil Board Clerk