

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, March 2, 2015 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.



Present: Keven Desmarais, Christopher Mather, Janine Robidoux, Charles Sullivan, and Maria Ternullo
Absent: None (and two vacancies)
Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of February 23rd were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 6 Brewster Drive, East Freetown

Property owner, Al Endriunas, was present and presented the project being proposed. He stated the work would be outside the fifty-foot buffer zone, and only a small part of the proposed dwelling would be within the 100-foot buffer zone. He further stated that the septic system would be outside of the 100-foot buffer zone.

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to issue a negative determination #3, that the work will encroach on the wetlands but will not be detrimental or create issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 124 Chipaway Road, East Freetown

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Desmarais stated the applicant's representative requested a continuance for failure to notify the abutters.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to continue the hearing to March 16th at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 19 Cliff Drive, Assonet

The applicant, Jennifer Bowdoin, was present to discuss the proposed work. The work proposed is to stabilize the slope of the property leading from Cliff Drive down to Assonet Bay. Mrs. Bowdoin stated that she is proposing to put riprap at the shoreline where the tide has been eating away at the land, along with two small retaining walls at points on the slope where erosion has been significant. The work is mostly centered on the property, with some work to also be done around the garage area.

Mr. Mather asked where the water causing the erosion is originating from, and Mrs. Bowdoin responded that the erosion as the shore was from the tides in the bay and the erosion midway on the slope was thought to be natural from rain. Mr. Desmarais asked about the planting schedule, and Mrs. Bowdoin responded it was devised by her former engineer at a rate of roughly 1:1 for removal and replacement. Several members commented that the proposed plantings would be expensive. Mrs. Bowdoin stated some plantings were proposed on the retaining walls to avoid having to put fences, as it was suggested the heights of the walls would require fences to meet code. Mr. Mather suggested that Mrs. Bowdoin contact the Building Inspector to clarify any code issues.

Mrs. Bowdoin also stated that a staircase leading from the home site to the bay would be rebuilt where needed and reduced in size where possible.

A letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife was placed on file. The letter stated there were no concerns on the part of that agency as to the work being proposed.

Mrs. Bowdoin asked if the retaining walls could be of natural boulders, or would they need to be manmade materials. Mr. Mather suggested that she contact the building inspector for an opinion. Mr. Desmarais did not believe there was any conservation-related restriction on using either material.

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue to hearing to April 13th at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills

There were no bills to pay.

Site Visits

No site visits were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Mather, to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: Michael T. McCue
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk