

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, April 24, 2017 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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Present: Keven Desmarais, Janine Robidoux, and Charles Sullivan.

Absent: Christopher Mather and Maria Ternullo.

Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Continued Notice of Intent – Hart Lot, Buddy’s Crossing, Wamsutta Way, etc., East Freetown

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue the hearing to May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Discussion – South Main Street Single-Arch (1886) Bridge

Jim Noyes of Greenman-Pedersen and Chuck Macomber, Highway Surveyor, were present to discuss a proposed change to the method of de-watering the bridge area during grouting work. Mr. Desmarais reviewed the previous hearings and decisions made with regard to the bridge project. Mr. Noyes then continued that the original method of de-watering was proposed to be sandbags, but now is proposed to be a porta-dam system. The porta-dam would be a truss-type structure with polymembrane, stabilized at the base with sandbags. The temporary land under water impacts would be increased from approximately 1132 s.f. to approximately 4962 s.f. Other than the footprint, the remaining activity would remain the same.

Mr. Desmarais addressed the time-of-year restrictions on working in the river. Mr. Noyes provided additional explanation on the time restrictions and certain limited waivers that could be granted if necessary. Mr. Desmarais believed the restrictions were meant to benefit the herring, but noted that the herring population is significantly lower than in the past. Mr. Desmarais asked Mr. Sullivan whether herring were able to scale Tisdale’s Dam in the past, and Mr. Sullivan stated they did years ago.

Mr. Noyes added that certain materials and equipment had originally been planned for storage and use at 9 South Main Street (Grandpa’s Place), but because of their plans to have an ice cream window this summer, the bridge activities would shift across the street to Winslow’s Wharf.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to allow the changes requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Requests for Certificates of Compliance – 238 South Main Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais stated that he, Mr. Sullivan, and the clerk had inspected the property for both certificates of compliance that had been requested, with file numbers SE 026-0509 and SE 026-0524. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue complete certificates for both projects. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

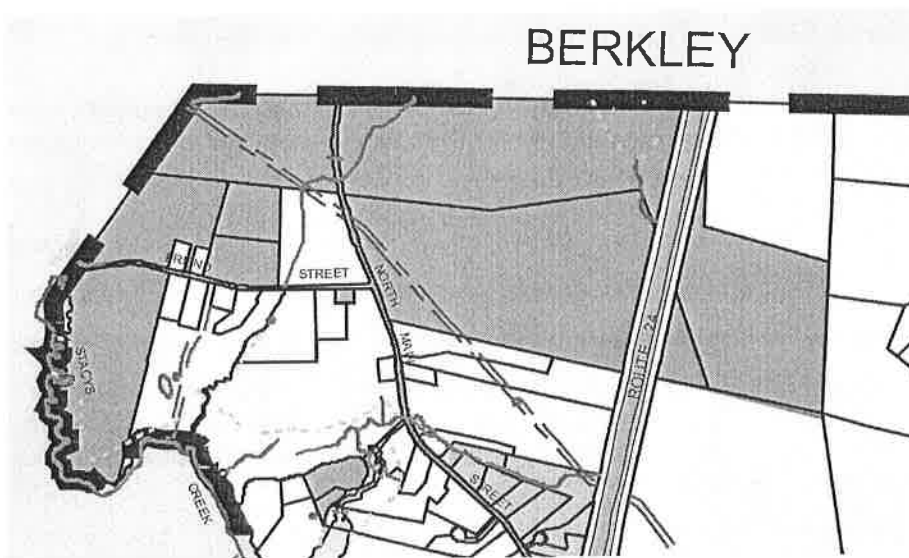
The minutes of April 10th were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Commission

Mr. Desmarais addressed three issues that had arisen late in the previous week:

- ♦ 45 Flagg Swamp Road – A call had been received through the Town Administrator's office on April 19th concerned with working being done on this property in proximity to the wetlands. Mr. Sullivan went out that evening and observed there was work being done that probably should not have been. Mr. Desmarais and the clerk went out the following afternoon and concurred with those observations. During site inspections on Sunday, April 23rd, all three stopped at spoke with the homeowner, advising him to stop work and file an RDA prior to the next meeting. Observed activities included general landscaping, but within the buffer zones and requiring oversight.
- ♦ Dakota's Way – While out to observe the 45 Flagg Swamp Road property, Mr. Desmarais and the clerk had stopped at nearby Dakota's Way to see how work was progressing. Mr. Desmarais had concerns that the work was not in keeping with the Order of Conditions, and so this site was also visited during the Sunday site inspections when Mr. Sullivan could be present. It appeared that some of the numbered stakes were in the wrong locations, that culverts may not have been in the correct locations, and that clearing may have exceeded what was permitted. The property owner will be asked to come in to the May 8th meeting to discuss.
- ♦ While on the Dakota's Way property on April 20th, machinery was heard in the vicinity of Cameron's Way, so Mr. Desmarais and the clerk proceeded there on the way back to town. A well drilling outfit was observed drilling on a cleared and grubbed lot, however no D.E.P. file number was posted, not siltation control was in place, and other minor concerns were observed. Mr. Desmarais placed a call to the property owner and requested that work cease until the necessary preparatory steps were taken. Sunday site walks showed that the file number and siltation control had been erected. While the work being undertaken is permissible under an existing Order of Conditions, the property is scheduled to be before the commission again on May 8th for a new Notice of Intent.

In addition to the above, under other business, the clerk asked about contacting Judy Jackson to see if she would have any interest in donating her portion of the Dean Farm to the Conservation Commission. Other than the old Dr. Schroeder property which is still in residential use, Miss Jackson's would complete a bloc of open space land on the Berkley line. Consensus was to write Miss Jackson and see what her feelings are.



Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____ Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk