

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, July 10, 2017 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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Ja Brown

Present: Keven Desmarais, Christopher Mather, and Janine Robidoux.

Absent: Charles Sullivan and Maria Ternullo.

Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearing back to order. It was noted that the applicant requested another continuance. A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to August 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 162 Chace Road, East Freetown

Dean Guimares was present to discuss the request, which was to alter the configuration of a previously-approved driveway. The Guimares' have too many cars for the driveway that was designed by the previous owners, and some of the vehicles are too large for the existing turnaround area. Right now, their vehicles are crossing onto the grass or backing out onto Chace Road. They would like to eliminate the existing turnaround and put a new, larger turnaround closer to Chace Road using recycled asphalt. Mr. Desmarais commended Mr. Guimares for filing, stating that many would not have bothered to come in.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance – 162 Chace Road, East Freetown

Mr. Guimares was also present for this request. He and his wife have been working toward fixing some of the problems left behind by the previous property owners. They are targeting the replication area and removal of the existing barn for later this year, so those conditions are not yet met. A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance noting the two items left unfinished. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 61 Cliff Drive, Assonet

Rick Charon was present on behalf of his clients, Alan Whitten and Thao Le Whitten, who are proposed to raze their existing single-family dwelling and construct a new single-family dwelling set closer to Cliff Drive but further away from the Assonet River. Their family is growing and needs more space. In addition, they want to move their home outside the flood zone, which it is partially in now. The new house will be able to have a basement and not require flood insurance. Mr. Charon noted that the D.E.P. has asked for an alternatives analysis, but that it should not be necessary as the property was established in its current form over thirty years prior to the August 1, 1996 cutoff date. Mr. Charon also noted that an existing retaining wall would be repaired or replaced as well as extended, and a new retaining wall would be located as the existing foundation serves also as a retaining wall. Additionally, the existing septic system has failed Title V and will need to be removed and replaced.

Mr. Desmarais asked when construction would commence. Mr. Whitten hoped that the foundation would be in by the fall. Mr. Desmarais noted that spoils should be kept closer to Cliff Drive and protected from mingling with runoff, and also that the area should be policed daily for debris and dumpsters should be covered. It was also noted that spill kits suitable for the vehicles, machinery, and equipment being used should be onsite.

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to approve the plans as revised, including conditions as noted with regard to site maintenance. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 3 Costa Drive, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais visited the site and found that it was substantially compliant with the Order of Conditions. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 10 Elm Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais visited the site and found that it was substantially compliant with the Order of Conditions. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Single-Signature Bill Payer

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to reappoint Mr. Desmarais as the single signature necessary for paying bills through June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Posting Vacancies for Town Forest Committee

The Town Forest Committee, which was established by vote of the Annual Town Meeting, will consist of three persons appointed by the Conservation Commission to help with developing the commission-held lands for passive recreation, etc. Consensus was to post the vacancies with letters of interest requested in time for the meeting to be held September 18th, and to notify the Board of Selectmen that the vacancies have been posted. It was reminded that the appointments are the discretion of the Conservation Commission.

Bills

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of June 10, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Commission

A new copy of the Order of Conditions for 4 Cleveland Avenue were signed, as John Parks had mislaid the original copy.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk