

**Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of August 21, 2017 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, MA**

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Ja Brown

Present: Keven Desmarais, Christopher Mather, Janine Robidoux, and Charles Sullivan

Absent: Maria Ternullo

Call to Order: Mr. Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearing to order. The applicants have requested another continuance. Motion to continue to 9/18/17 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall: Charles Sullivan; Second: Janine Robidoux; motion carries.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 137 Dr. Braley Road, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais examined the site and spoke with the owner. There is a 6ft patch that appears to need additional grass coverage, but all other matters of concern have been addressed. Motion to issue a complete certificate of compliance: Janine Robidoux; Second: Christopher Mather; motion carries.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 30 East Howland Road, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais examined the site and stated that all matters of concern have been addressed. While on site he observed that 32 Washburn Road may have performed work outside the limit of clearing, and he will have the clerk take a look at the file. Motion to issue a complete certificate of compliance: Christopher Mather; Second: Charles Sullivan; motion carries.

Update on the Town Forest Committee

Openings on this committee have been advertised on the Town website. The Chairman stated that the purpose of the group is to meeting on a quarterly basis to assess current and proposed Conservation lands and to determine the use and public accessibility to them after examining any deed restrictions. This group would formulate the ultimate vision for the lands. Thus far a few calls of interest have come in, but no letters have been submitted.

Update on 21 Point of Pines, East Freetown

There was work being done without a permit on this site; however an engineer has contacted the Clerk and is currently working on a filing for an upcoming meeting.

New Business – Haskins Mill Site at Maple Tree Crossing

This is a site that is currently in tax title, and the owner is looking to donate the land to conservation as it is mostly wetlands. There would need to be an agreement in place to deed to the Town and a Special Town Meeting article drawn up for the Town to accept it. Mr. Desmarais stated that he would prefer to take a look at the land before considering submitting the article. No action taken.

New Business – Town meeting Article

The Clerk prepared notes regarding a potential article for Town meeting. In his research, he recommends the adoption of a provision of MGL for the conveyance of ownership of lands to Conservation Commissions. No action taken.

King Philip's Cave

Mr. Desmarais went on a walking tour of the property where the cave is located. The tour was guided by Cora Peirce of the Acushnet Fairhaven Land Trust, who pointed out a number of artifacts, structures, and areas that resulted from the presence of Native Americans in the area many years ago. These include stone walls, carvings, rock formations, etc. The land owners are developing a solar array on the parcel but are preserving 2.43 acres around the cave and providing a

walking path easement to the property. Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) had required a level of archeological survey prior to site development, and this was performed by consultants PAL, retained by the project applicants. The Planning Board has not yet seen final reports. Mr. Desmarais states he would like to arrange a second visit in the fall where there would be less visual obstruction from the foliage.

Misc

Motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2017: Christopher Mather; Abstained: Charles Sullivan; Second: Keven Desmarais; motion carries.

The Chairman signed the schedule of bills

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Moreau