

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, January 22, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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2018 FEB 13 AM 10:46

J. Browne

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 7:11 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 February 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 170 South Main Street (Guimond’s Farm/Algonquin Gas), Assonet

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearing back to order. It was noted that the applicant requested another continuance. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to continue the hearing to February 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Sammy’s Lane, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais recapped the prior meeting, and explained that this is an “Invalid” certificate for the original filing of the road reconstruction, meaning that the project as approved circa 2013 had never commenced and the Order of Conditions had expired. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to issue the Certificate of Compliance noting that it was for an invalid order. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The following items were handled under old business:

- The Order of Conditions for Clermont Way was not signed as there is still one item (cost estimate for stormwater management) outstanding.
- Discussion continued on the Proprietors Way land deal with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. The DCR has offered to purchase the 192 Chace Road property for \$60,000 and has asked that the town-owned land further north on Proprietors Way (specifically the Olive Sherman Lot, the Newhall Woodlot, and the Paull Lot and associated land) be transferred to the Conservation Commission. The selectmen, at their last meeting, asked what the Conservation Commission’s opinion was, and the clerk had responded that the commission was favorable to the transfer of the woodlots but had not taken a position on the sale of the ramshackle house. All present at this meeting felt the scheme as a whole was a good idea. A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, that the commission “wholeheartedly and joyfully” support both aspects of the scheme. The motion carried unanimously, and a letter will be drafted and sent to the selectmen expressing support.

New Business

The following items were handled under new business:

- A request to extend a previously-issued and previously-extended Order of Resource Area Delineation was received from Campanelli Freetown, LLC, for the property located at 0 Copicut Road (including the paper street sometimes known as Rocky Road), Assonet, shown on Assessors Map 233 as lots 2, 3, and 4. It was noted that a previous three-year extension was granted in 2015 to expire February 27, 2018. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Mather, to extend the ORAD to February 27, 2021.

- As for the discussion of goals for the Town Forest Committee, it was agreed on consensus to invite the Town Forest Committee to the meeting on February 12th as long as the agenda stays light; if it grows, this item should be pushed off until March.

Bills

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of January 8, 2018, were reviewed. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried 2-0-1, with Mr. Mather abstaining.

Other Business Properly Before the Commission

The clerk reported communicating via e-mail on Thursday and Friday with representatives from Justice Resource Institute, Inc., who own property in Berkley at the town line. A triangular sliver of their property measuring roughly 105 feet on each of its long ends at 2.14 feet at its widest on the short side, extends into Assonet. They would like to donate this sliver of land (illustrated at right) to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Desmarais stated he had asked the clerk to suggest that they offer it to the Boys Club since it's landlocked but abuts the Camp Welch property, but JRI had not been interested in doing so. Mrs. Robidoux did not feel that it was of any use for the Conservation Commission since it is landlocked. Mr. Desmarais shared that opinion. It was noted that the Conservation Commission holds several other landlocked parcels, but none that are so tiny, narrow, and inaccessible.

Consensus was to not accept the donation, but no vote was taken. Mr. Desmarais will contact Pete McCarthy from the camp and determine if they are interested in acquiring the sliver of land, and if so the clerk will try and work this out with JRI. All agreed this course would make the most sense.

Meeting Adjourned

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

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk

