

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, February 26, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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Present: Keven Desmarais, Janine Robidoux, and Maria Ternullo.
Absent: Christopher Mather and Charles Sullivan.
Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Track Land & 165 South Main Street, Assonet

Continued Notice of Intent – 0 North Braley Cross, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearings back to order. Dr. Lars Carlson of VHB was present again, as were Jean Fox (MBTA/South Coast Rail) and Holly Palmgren (MBTA), to provide updates on the proposal. Changes were requested to the positioning of the proposed station site in Assonet by the Rezendes family, current owners of the property. Specifically, the station area would shift north to accommodate a UPS parking lot that had been sited on the property. This would also have a slight impact on the detention pond and mediation/mitigation areas.

Mr. Desmarais asked if the existing culvert could handle the flow of water that would result from development of the site. The response was yes. Dr. Carlson stated that the mediation area would be graded to work with the existing wetland areas; mitigation will be at a ratio of greater than 1:1, and would also accommodate work in East Freetown and on railroad culverts throughout town.

Deb Robbins, 39 Cliff Drive, owner of the abutting property at 125 South Main Street, asked if any drainage would flow to Rattlesnake Brook. Dr. Carlson stated that no drainage is intended to go directly to the brook, but if the natural low spots ever filled and a berm was breached by overflowing water, the natural flow would be toward Rattlesnake Brook.

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

Mr. Desmarais asked if there were any questions from the members. There were none.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to approve the plans submitted as follows:

- ♦ Assonet: Revised plans dated February 26, 2018
- ♦ East Freetown: Plans dated January 22, 2018

The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – 125 South Main Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais noted that he had been out to check the flags, and everything appeared to be in order. The D.E.P. file number has also been issued.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to issue an Order of Resource Area Delineation as per the submitted plans. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion with Town Forest Committee

S. D. Chandler and Dan Rezendes, members of the Town Forest Committee, were present for the discussion, as was Ben Pierpont, applicant for the third vacancy. First, Mr. Rezendes was elected chairman of the Town Forest Committee. Following, a discussion was held between the two committees on what the goals and expectations are for the Town Forest Committee, its role related to the Conservation Commission properties, and what and where the Conservation Commission properties are.

The Conservation Commission will provide maps of the conservation lands and will work with the Town Forest Committee and the Town Accountant to set up a donation account for the committee.

The Town Forest Committee then withdrew to the Water Commission office to continue their meeting.

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 Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to continue the hearing to March 12, 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 Mrs. Ternullo, to continue the hearing to March 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. 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.
- The Special Town Meeting that will deal with the DCR/Proprietors Way land will be March 14th at 7:00 p.m. are the elementary school.

New Business

The following items were handled under new business:

- A revision to the filing requirements guide, specifically requiring that the hearing date be included with abutters’ notices, was approved by consensus.
- Discussion on “low impact” points of access for canoes and kayaks, as well as potential locations for osprey nests, were tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.
- Discussion was held on the desirability of forming an Agricultural Commission in town as has been done in many surrounding towns. The clerk noted this to be a continuation of work Lauren Moreau had started to establish a farmer’s market in town. All believed an Agricultural Commission would be a good aid to, and voice for, the farmers in town, and that a farmer’s market was a desirable goal. A motion was made by Mrs. Ternullo, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to submit an article for the Annual Town Meeting seeking to establish a five-member Agricultural Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of February 12, 2018, were reviewed. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business Properly Before the Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Ternullo, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to appoint Mr. Pierpont to the Town Forest Committee for the term ending June 20, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

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