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Freetown Conservation Commission & Planning Board

Minutes of the Wednesday, April 18, 2018 Joint Meeting
Senior Center – East Freetown, Mass.


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Present: Keven Desmarais, Christopher Mather, and Charles Sullivan for the Conservation Commission; Keven Desmarais, Robert Jose, Debra Robbins, and Mark Rogers for the Planning Board.

Absent: Janine Robidoux and Maria Ternullo for the Conservation Commission; James Frates for the Planning Board.

Guests: David Albrecht, Jason Rossi, and Tony Uva from Borrego Solar; Scott P. Sullivan of Florence Electric; and Mike Reynolds of G&R Construction.

Call to Order

Keven Desmarais called the Conservation Commission to order at 6:37 p.m.

Mark Rogers called the Planning Board to order at 6:37 p.m.

Joint Meeting with Borrego Solar, re: 30 Washburn Road, East Freetown (Rocky Woods)

Mr. Desmarais introduced the project and stated the purpose for the meeting, which was to have both boards jointly review the proposed construction process prior to the commencement of work.

Mr. Rogers asked if any of the conditions that were imposed by the Planning Board were found to be difficult to comply with. Mr. Rossi stated no, everything should be okay as conditioned. Mr. Desmarais stressed the hours for large construction and delivery vehicles (9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and after 4:00 p.m.) would be strictly enforced as these hours were designed to avoid interference with school buses and students driving to the regional campus.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the Massachusetts Historical Commission review of King Philip's Cave and other archaeologically-sensitive areas on the site. Mr. Albrecht stated the M.H.C. was in agreement with Borrego's plans and proposals as far as protecting the historically and culturally important aspects of the site, including the two-acre buffer surrounding the cave. Mr. Albrecht added that any of the tribes wishing to preserve certain burls in trees should mark those trees and make arrangements as soon as possible, as once the tree removal begins they will remove what's not marked out. Mr. Desmarais asked again for confirmation that the M.H.C. was good with the proposals, and Mr. Albrecht stated they were. Mr. Desmarais stressed that there is no room for error – what is to be protected must be protected.

Mr. Desmarais stated that the Planning Board would like to see a meeting with Borrego, the police and fire chiefs, and the Highway Surveyor onsite prior to construction to review traffic patterns, etc. Mr. Rogers stressed the conditions related to parking on Washburn Road and not parking on the lot adjoining the pond.

Mr. Albrecht explained the process they plan to use to remove the many dumped tires on the site. Mr. Rossi stated that they planned to remove the tires once the land has dried out from spring thaw and rains.

Mr. Rogers asked when the project would start. Mr. Rossi stated they want to begin approximately May 8th, and they believed they would be completed by September. Their goal right now is to have the trees down and the site stumped by the end of May.

Mr. Uva asked about groundcover such as leaves, pine needles, forest mat, etc., what restrictions there are related to this. Mr. Desmarais stated groundcover had not been conditioned. Mr. Uva asked about curious

people venturing onto the site or out toward the cave. Mr. Desmarais encouraged fencing off the site sooner rather than later.

Mr. Desmarais suggested having the meeting with the chiefs and Highway Surveyor in May, and also having Environmental Partners out there at the same time. The folks from Borrego suggested the second week of May. Mr. Desmarais asked for a Wednesday if possible.

A question was raised about the timeline for completing the donation of the cave to the Freetown Historical Commission. Mr. Albrecht stated that was between the property owners (Simeone) and the Historical Commission. Mr. Desmarais stated he would contact the Simeones and inquire.

A motion was made by Mr. Jose, seconded by Ms. Robbins, to adjourn the Planning Board meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Conservation Commission briefly discussed when to conduct site walks for its upcoming meeting on April 23rd.

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to adjourn the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk