

**Town of Freetown  
Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Monday, February 12, 2024 Meeting  
Held hybrid, at the Police Station Community Room, and over Zoom

**Present in Person:** Steven Tripp

**Present over Zoom:** Charles Sullivan and Margaret French

**Absent:** Christopher Mather

**Call to Order:** Margaret French called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

*Note: As this meeting was conducted virtually and members participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.*

**Request for Extension of Order of Conditions – 13 Estelle Avenue; SE 026-0621**

Ms. French explained that the Commission had a long discussion last year about this project and had granted a one-year extension. There has not been any substantial work completed over the last year. Mr. Sullivan explained that he has reservations about giving an extension. The original order was issued five years ago. Ms. French would visit the site and take pictures for the Commission to review.

A Motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to continue this to the first meeting in March to look more in depth at this project. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – 3 Friend Street; SE 026-0640**

James Rezendes was present and explained the request for Certificate of Compliance. He went to the Planning Board last week and had received approval and that was sent to the Selectmen to be put on the Town Meeting. Chuck Macomber from the Highway Department also completed an inspection.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to issue the complete Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

**Continued Notice of Intent – 30 Island Road Extension**

Catherine Ricks from Tighe and Bond, formerly Coastal Engineering was present. The Commission received the letter from Natural Heritage. They agreed to the proposed comments. The comments were the sweep of mussels prior to construction, to stay within limit of work and proposed vegetation all to be native vegetation that was in the plans.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to issue the Order of Conditions with the condition that all conditions from Natural Heritage letter dated February 9, 2024 apply. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reissue Certificate of Compliance – 61 Cliff Drive; SE 026-0606**

Victoria Alfaro explained that this was an old project and the applicant has filed a new Notice of Intent that is scheduled for the next meeting. The Certificate of Compliance was issued but not recorded. It must be reissued with new signatures to be recorded at the registry.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to issue the complete Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

**Notice of Intent – 112 South Main Street**

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carried unanimously.

Jason Youngquist from Outback Engineering was present and explained that the project had an enforcement order due to the cutting of trees in the buffer zone and in wetlands. The Notice of Intent is to replant the trees and everything that was removed from the wetland area. Greg Drake, a wetland scientist, put together the plan. The timeline is to begin as soon as spring planting weather permits. There is a list of the plants to be replanted on the submitted plans. Ms. French asked if there is any restoration outside of the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) in the riverfront. Mr. Youngquist stated that the restoration would be in the BVW and the rest of the area that had been cleared has already started to grow back.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to approve the restoration plan as submitted and issue an Order of Conditions with the condition that the project be completed no later than June 30, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Discussion on the Wetland By-law and Rules and Regulations**

Mrs. Alfaro explained that the draft of the rules and regulations would be prepared for the next meeting. She would like feedback from the Commission if they are looking to make any changes to the by-law.

#### **Discussion and Vote on the Proposed Revisions to the MA Wetlands Protection Act Regulations**

Mrs. Alfaro explained that a lot of organizations had wanted an extension for the comment period. The extension period was granted to the end of April.

#### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to approve the 01.22.2024 and 01.26.2024 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Charles Sullivan, seconded by Steven Tripp, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

This is a True Record by me

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Nicole DeMoranville, Senior Clerk