

**Town of Freetown
Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Monday, April 9, 2024 Meeting
Held hybrid, at the Multi-Purpose Senior Center, and over Zoom

Present in Person: Charles Sullivan and Steven Tripp. **Present over Zoom:** Christopher Mather.

Absent: Margaret French.

Call to Order: Charles Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Note: As this meeting was a hybrid and members participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 2 Crossroads Drive

Jason Lanagan, owner of Profile Tavern, stated that they are proposing to install a concrete pad with a roof to hold a barbeque grill. The concrete pad will be on existing pavement and no new disturbance will be taking place. Mr. Sullivan asked that siltation control be provided during construction. Mr. Lanagan agreed to install a silt fence during construction.

A motion was made by Steven Tripp, seconded by Christopher Mather, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 0 Bell Rock Road (Freetown Fall River State Forest)

John Tomawski and Raffi Peterson, of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA), were present. Mr. Tomawski stated that the Determination of Applicability that was received in 2021 will be expiring and this request is for the same work of trail maintenance and bridge installations.

A motion was made by Steven Tripp, seconded by Christopher Mather, to issue a negative determination #2 and #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tomawski then stated that they will be creating an Operations and Maintenance Plan that incorporates future sites, but they are not quite there yet. Gerald Autler, of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), stated that DCR works closely with partners such as NEMBA since they do not have the staff to do a lot of the maintenance for the State Forest but they want to create a better approach for ongoing operations moving forward. Mr. Sullivan asked if they have one set of regulations for the bridge structures since there is one in particular in the State Forest that is pretty steep. Mr. Autler responded that volunteers are often the ones building these structures and having varying abilities however they like to have staff out there to ensure the work is being done properly.

Request for Extension of Order of Conditions – 8 East Chipaway Road/Bolton Cedar Swamp; Lamb's Village

Pastor Moniz, of the Calvary Pentecostal Church, and Bryan Buckley, of Signal Works Architecture, were present. Mr. Sullivan noted the memo provided by Pastor Moniz detailing the work completed to date and stated that the Commission just wants to ensure progress is being made on the project.

A motion was made by Steven Tripp, seconded by Christopher Mather, to issue a three-year extension. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Vote on Recommendation to Purchase 0 Richmond Road, Map 207, Lot 38 & 111

Victoria Alfaro, the Planning & Land Use Administrator, explained that they were first approached by the property owner regarding purchasing the parcels but it was not clear whether or not the owner was offering the land specifically to the Conservation Commission. The owner then reached out to the Board of Selectmen and sent out an email to see if certain departments had any interest in purchasing the parcels. The report given to the Commission, along with the Conservation Restriction (CR) and maps, details that both parcels are permanently protected through the Conservation Restrictions, are zoned Open Space and Recreation, and taking into consideration the potential limited development on Lot 111, she would not recommend purchasing either parcel. Purchasing the parcels wouldn't afford any greater protections than what already exists, aside from the

approximately 4 acres of developable area that is not included in the CR and is zoned residential. The Commission agreed there is no advantage to purchasing the properties.

A motion was made by Christopher Mather, seconded by Steven Tripp, to not recommend purchasing the parcels. The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Conservation Agent Job Posting

Mrs. Alfaro explained that about four or five applications were received and asked the Commission how they would like to move forward. Mr. Sullivan is open to any Commissioner wanting to take part in the process and is also open to taking on the responsibility himself with Victoria. Mr. Tripp and Mr. Mather agreed that Mr. Sullivan can handle the interview process. Mr. Sullivan said if Ms. French who is absent from this meeting would like to take part, she is more than welcome.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Steven Tripp, seconded by Christopher Mather, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria Alfaro, Planning & Land Use Administrator