

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, January 28, 2019 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2019 MAR 27 AM 11:48
Ja Brown

Present: Keven Desmarais, Charles Sullivan, and Janine Robidoux.

Absent: Christopher Mather and Maria Ternullo.

Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Continued Notice of Intent – 13 Estelle Avenue, East Freetown

No-one was present for this hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to February 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Austin Bog, Dr. Braley Road, East Freetown

Rich Rheume of Prime Engineering was present. The applicant, Clean Energy Collective, is seeking to verify the wetlands lines for the property before proceeding to a Notice of Intent filing. Mr. Rheume stated that augers were used to test the cranberry bog labelled as an upland bog, and that those tests found only sand and no dark soils. Mr. Desmarais asked to receive copies of the logs or other substantiating information in case these finds are questioned later, and Mr. Rheume agreed to supply them.

Mr. Desmarais noted the upland bog was holding water and asked Mr. Rheume if any hydrological connectivity was observed with the other cranberry bogs or pond on the property, and Mr. Rheume said there did not appear to be.

Mr. Rheume noted that the top of bank was labelled and areas flagged based on field survey, and the remaining wetlands areas were identified through aerial photography or like methods. Discussion was held on the B and E wetlands lines, and why these lines did not continue or demarcate other adjacent wetlands. It was agreed that when revising the plan, Mr. Rheume could use a bold line denoting the area where a determination is being requested, to allow the Conservation Commission to focus its decision there and not on the property as a whole since that is not the applicant's objective.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue this matter to February 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Enforcement Order – 41 Water Street (Cudworth's Wharf), Assonet

Mr. Desmarais gave a brief update on this situation. The Building Department was made aware, as the property owner has applied for building permits.

Discuss Access to Icehouse Lot / MBTA Grade Crossing

The clerk recapped the discussion from the prior meeting, and also reported on his discussion with representatives from the Wildlands Trust. At the time of the conversation, they had not been approached by the MBTA relative to their crossing. The two groups will remain in contact and work together as this matter moves forward. Mr. Desmarais requested the MBTA be kept in the loop as well.

Updates on Old Business

Mr. Desmarais outlined his ideas for the Cove Lane project, including a low-impact removable gangplank-type structure. The overall idea was again stated to discourage the existing footpath from widening or deviating on its own and broadening the impact on the wetlands.

Bills & Minutes

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted. The minutes of January 14, 2019, were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business Properly Before the Commission

None.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk