

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, November 25, 2019 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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2019 DEC -4 PM 12: 29

Present: Keven Desmarais, Charles Sullivan, and Maria Ternullo.

Absent: Christopher Mather and Janine Robidoux.

Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Continued Notice of Intent – 170 & 170-Rear So. Main St. (Guimond's Farm/Algonquin Gas), Assonet

Mr. Desmarais noted that the applicant's engineer and the Town's review engineer were still hammering out some updates and were not ready to return this evening. He reviewed some of what he saw on a recent visit to Copart's facility in Harleyville, S.C., and stated he would repeat the information at the next meeting for the benefit of the public. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to continue the hearing to Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Notices of Intent

Mr. Desmarais called the following hearings back to order, noting the applicants' requests for continuation. On motions made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, it was unanimously voted to continue the hearings as follows:

- a. 25 Hemlock Point, East Freetown.....to December 9, 2019, at 7:00, at the Town Hall
- b. 27 Hemlock Point, East Freetown.....to December 9, 2019, at 7:00, at the Town Hall
- c. 0 Chace Road (Gurney Farm), E. Freetownto December 9, 2019, at 7:00, at the Town Hall
- d. 170 South Main Street, Assonetto January 13, 2020, at 7:00, at the Town Hall

Request Determination of Applicability – 2 Crossroads Drive, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais stated that the owner and owner's representative were both unable to attend due to prior commitments. He described the area as a previously-disturbed parking area that slopes toward the wetlands and is bounded by a post-and-rail fence. Mr. Desmarais stated the owner wishes to replace the slope and fence with a concrete block retaining wall and new fence, as a means of improving safety for customers and for snow plowing. A motion was made by Mrs. Ternullo, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The clerk provided updates as follows:

- a. There were no updates to report on the Icehouse Lot / MBTA Grade Crossing.
- b. A grant for \$910.00 was received for the Porter Pasture forest stewardship plan. Phil Benjamin has been out to the property and is in the process of preparing a plan.
- c. A grant for \$1,310.00 was received for the Betsy Taber forest stewardship plan. An associate of Mr. Benjamin's was out to the property earlier in the day. It was noted the additional \$400.00 was because this property is being assessed under the songbird habitat program.
- d. An updated plan depicting the Conservation Restriction area was received from DiPrete Engineering. The area proposed has been reduced from around 200 acres to 132 acres; the difference being the

original proposal was by Riverfront Business Park, while the most recent proposal is by Copart. The clerk did recommend to DiPrete/Copart revisiting approximately six acres removed that may be of value to put back.

New Business

The request from DCR to support geographic expansion of the Forest Legacy Areas program was reviewed. Consensus of the members present was to support the expansion, provided it did not increase regulations on property owners or come at a cost to the Town.

A quarter-acre lot at Assonet Bay Shores was reviewed for possible future acquisition by the Conservation Commission. The Town took ownership of the lot in March as a tax title foreclosure. It directly abuts some of the Payne's Cove marsh already owned by the Conservation Commission. Some discussion was held on the possibility of the Town using the lot for other purposes. Mr. Desmarais believed the lot was unnecessary for the Water Department and likely unsuitable for a pumping station if sewer were ever extended to the area. The clerk reported on unsuccessful attempts to build on the lot as depicted in Building/Health files. Mr. Desmarais believed that if the lot could have been built on, it would have been by now. Consensus of the members present was to seek transfer of the property.

Bills & Minutes

Bills paid since the previous meeting were recounted. The minutes of November 12th were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business Properly Before the Commission

A letter was received from the Soil Conservation Board regarding their discovery during a site inspection of a boat dismantling operation at 67 Chace Road. Consensus was to coordinate an inspection with the Building Inspector and Health Agent.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk