

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, January 25, 2021 Meeting
Held Remotely via Zoom.us

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2021 MAR 18 PM 12:57
Charlie Sullivan

Present: Keven Desmarais, Chris Mather, and Charlie Sullivan participated remotely via Zoom.

Absent: Keith Mello and Maria Ternullo.

Call to Order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Note: As this meeting was conducted remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.

At this time, Mr. Desmarais advised anyone listening along that all plans, files, etc., to be reviewed would be available on the Town's website during the meeting. He then reviewed the public hearing process.

Continued Notice of Intent – 3 Locust Street, Assonet (Single-family home)

Continued Notice of Intent – 39 Sammy's Lane, Assonet

Continued Notice of Intent – 41 Water Street, Assonet

All of the projects listed have requested to be continued to February 8, 2021.

Mr. Desmarais called all the public hearings back to order that have requested to be continued.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearings to February 8, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 3, Locust Street, Assonet (Proposed subdivision road modification)

Mr. Desmarais called the public hearing to order. Mr. Desmarais explained the notification of abutters and the advertisements were put out. However, the public hearing notice was not posted a week prior to the meeting therefore this public hearing needs to be continued.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to February 8, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Lot 66 County Road, East Freetown

Request for Certificate of Compliance – County Road/Cleveland Park Road, East Freetown

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for both projects. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 73 County Road, East Freetown

Nicole Letendre from Watershed Environmental, Inc. presented this septic upgrade project. Ms. Letendre explained that the existing system is currently a septic tank with a blind drain heading in the direction of a nearby wetland. The wetland is about 50 feet away from the house and there is also a shallow well wedged in between the house and garage. Ms. Letendre kept the flow diffuser system and is replacing the current septic tank with a new one with a pump chamber and a distribution box. There is a large pine tree that might have to be knocked down. Mr. Desmarais states this is a huge improvement getting the new septic system as far away from the wetland as possible.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 5 Causeway Road, Assonet

Peter G. Peloquin presented this proposed tree removal of 3 trees and construction of a 12'x12' chain link dog pen and 10'x16' storage shed project. Mr. Peloquin stated that he is concerned about the trees at the lower end of the property because of their shallow roots. One tree on the property fell over with a strong wind gust. Mr. Peloquin believes the trees are a hazard and will plant native trees if these are able to be removed. Mr. Desmarais understands the roots may be shallow, however they still perform a service by helping stabilize the wetland. Mr. Desmarais proposed to trim the trees to 8ft tall rather than complete removal in order for the root ball to stay intact. Mr. Peloquin would like to trim the tree that fell and then try to upright it. Mr. Peloquin agreed to trim the trees to 8ft tall.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Christ Mather, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 3 Friend Street, Assonet

Byron Holmes from Holmes Engineering and the applicant Jim Rezendes were present. Mr. Holmes let the Commission know that they were able to obtain a waiver from the Planning Board the waiver for the stormwater runoff mitigation because the area is subject to storm flowage. Mr. Holmes expressed that the applicant has no objection to submitting the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prior to construction as well as putting the erosion control line further away from the resource area. Adam Kran from Environmental Partners Group suggested that the Commission may want to see updated plan sheet of the erosion control line as a condition of approval.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to close the public hearing. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to approve the most recent plans as submitted (revision date January 18, 2021) with the conditions that the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan be submitted for review within two weeks and prior to starting construction, the Commission be provided with an updated plan that shows the erosion control line from the resource area. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Rocky Road (off Copicut Road), Assonet

Byron Holmes from Holmes Engineering, and the applicant Jim Rezendes, were present. Mr. Holmes explained the comments they received from Environmental Partners Group were relatively minor. Environmental Partners wanted to see an additional test pit at basin number five as well as more detail in the calculations that were submitted for the sediment flow and submittal of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prior to the start of construction. Adam Kran from Environmental Partners Group agreed that the outstanding comments have been addressed.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to close the public hearing. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to approve the most recent plans as submitted (revision date December 29, 2020) with the condition that the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan be submitted within two weeks and prior to the start of construction. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 12 Forge Road, Assonet

Christopher King with CVE North America gave an update about this ground mounted solar array project. Mr. King stated that they are in the middle of peer review. There was a site walk with wetland scientist Brooke Monroe that stated she agrees with the wetland delineations that are currently shown on the plan. Mr. King

explained that Ms. Monroe pointed out was the presence of the intermittent stream that runs parallel to the railroad bed and recommended the buffer zone associated with this area is shown on this plan. Mr. Desmarais asked Mr. King if there has been a response letter to the peer review from Environmental Partners Group. Mr. King stated they plan on giving a formal response letter to Environmental Partners Group.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to continue the public hearing to February 8, 2021. The motion carries unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Desmarais let the Commission know that the job description for the Gatekeeper has been revised. Mr. Desmarais also stated that Mike McCue, the former Senior Clerk for the Commission, will fill the volunteer Open Space Consultant position.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to approve the most recent job descriptions for Gatekeeper and Open Space Consultant. The motion carries unanimously.

Minutes

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to approve the January 11, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carries unanimously.

Schedule of Bills Paid

Mr. Desmarais stated that he has received engineering consultant bills that he has signed.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria D'Antoni, Senior Clerk

