

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, April 26, 2021 Meeting
Held Remotely via Zoom.us

Charles C. A. Eitub
RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2021 SEP - 1 AM 10:06

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

Absent: 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.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 46 High Street, Assonet

Mr. Sullivan has recused himself from this filing as he is the applicant. Nyles Zager, from Zenith Consulting Engineers, presented this septic upgrade. Mr. Zager explained that because there is a 100-foot buffer to the well, they were able to get the proposed septic system 50 feet away from the BVW. There is very minimal grading and minimal vegetation that has to be removed. A silt sock is being proposed to prevent any erosion to the wetland. Mr. Desmarais asked what they were going to do with the existing septic system. Mr. Zager stated that it will be removed.

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

Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Rear Simmons Street, Assonet

Continued Notice of Intent – 23-25 Gurney Road, East Freetown

Continued Notice of Intent – 32 Middleboro Road, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais stated that the applicants for the above projects have requested a continuance.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to continue the public hearings to May 10, 2021.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Freetown/Fallriver State Forest

Paul Jahnige, from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Jessana Kelly, from SWCA Environmental Consultants, presented this proposed reroute of an off-highway motorcycle trail. The reroute is almost one mile and purpose is to create a new section of trail because the current one is becoming eroded. They will also be closing off some unauthorized trails. The work that is in the buffer zone will have a boardwalk to protect the soils.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability – 57 Cliff Drive, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais stated that the applicant wants to extend their deck slightly.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to issue a negative determination #3, with the condition that siltation control be put in place. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 2 County Road, East Freetown

Nick Velozo, from Twin Boys LLC, was present. Mr. Velozo stated they are proposing two buildings however only one of them in the back corner slightly impedes the 100-foot buffer. Mr. Desmarais asked if siltation

control could be placed in the back corner. Mr. Sullivan asked what type of bases for the areas around the buildings will be put. Mr. Velozo replied that crushed asphalt will be placed.

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to issue a negative determination #3 with the condition that siltation control be added. The motion carries unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 138 Chipaway Road, East Freetown

Bill Gottwald, from DMG Associates, was present. Mr. Gottwald explained that they are putting in a new tank and leeching field. The existing leeching field is almost entirely in the buffer zone and the new proposed leeching field is only 20 percent inside the buffer zone. Mr. Gottwald proposed to use silt sock for the erosion control. Mr. Desmarais asked what is being done with the existing septic tank. Mr. Gottwald stated that the area where the new septic is going, the old one will be removed, and the rest will be left.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability – 13.5 Elm Street, Assonet

Katharine Caron, the applicant, stated that she will be hiring a professional company to remove the dead trees, leaving the stumps in place.

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Keith Mello, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 41 Water Street, Assonet

John DeSousa, from North County Group, was present. Adam Kran, from Environmental Partners Group, was also present. Mr. DeSousa explained that they have moved the proposed garage/barn to the other side of the lot to alleviate the issue with one of the abutters. Mr. DeSousa stated that regarding the enforcement order; they are going to have it revegetated. Mr. Desmarais stated that in the phone call with Mr. DeSousa and Mr. Kran, it was decided that Mr. DeSousa will have to reach out to the Army Corps to see if this project requires a Chapter 91 Waterways Permit. Mr. Desmarais stated that this does not mean the project cannot move forward, however it will have to be conditioned that work cannot begin until all required permits are obtained. Lori Riley, an abutter to this project, asked where the septic is being located. Mr. DeSousa stated that it is not on the plan because they have not gone to the Board of Health. Mr. Desmarais suggested that Lori Riley and John DeSousa meet in person to respond to her concerns.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to continue the public hearing to April 26, 2021.

Old Business

a. Response to Enforcement Order

Mr. Desmarais explained that the applicant will submit a NOI in time for the May 10th meeting.

b. Decide if returning to in person meetings

Mr. Desmarais stated that the meetings will continue to be held over zoom.

Any other business properly to come before the commission

Mr. Desmarais explained that there is a proposed article to make the Conservation Commission the Soil Board since it is more aligned with what the Commission does. Mr. Desmarais asked if the other members were okay with this. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Mello both said they agree with moving forward with the article.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria D'Antoni, Senior Clerk