

2022 MAY 27 PM 5: 55

Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, September 13, 2021
Held Remotely via Zoom.us

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

Absent: None

Call to Order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 – 67 Chace Road

Continued Notice of Intent – Off Chipaway Road

Mr. Desmarais called the hearings back to order. The applicants have asked to be continued.

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

Keith Mello has joined the meeting.

Charlie Sullivan recused himself from this public hearing.

Notice of Intent – 53 High Street

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Chris Mather, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carries with three in favor, Charlie Sullivan recused.

Darren Michaelis, of Foresight Engineering, was present. Mr. Michaelis stated they are proposing to build a small single-family home for the applicant's son. The lot has quite a bit of wetlands on the property and a brook runs through it. Mr. Desmarais asked if the well is in a wetland. Mr. Michaelis replied yes, it is a previously disturbed wood road area. This is a temporary disturbance that will be loamed, seeded, and additional plantings will be added.

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by Chris Mather, to close the public hearing. The motion carries with three in favor, Charlie Sullivan recused.

Mr. Desmarais asked if they are out of the riverfront area. Mr. Michaelis replied that they are under the allowed size, 12,000 feet, and there is a note on the plan that states that.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Keith Mello, to approve the plans with a modification that the replication area that be between wetland flags 2-8 and 2-10. The motion carries with three in favor, Charlie Sullivan recused.

Charlie Sullivan rejoined the meeting.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 78 Cliff Drive

Brad Fitzgerald, of SFG Associates, was present. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that at the closest point, the existing septic tank is 37 feet from the salt marsh. They are proposing to place the new septic tank and reroute the plumbing to make it 60 feet away. Erosion control measures will be installed.

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

Continued Notice of Intent – 0 Rear Simmons Street

Mr. Desmarais called the public hearing back to order. Jon Connell, of SITEC, was present. Mr. Connell stated they have addressed all of the peer reviewer's technical comments. There have been revisions made to the replication area and another small replication area has been added. Maria Proulx Audi, of Environmental Partners, replied that there are two outstanding items that the Board might want to include as conditions of approval: submitting a SWPPP and an illicit discharge compliance statement. Mr. Desmarais stated these are typical conditions.

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

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Keith Mello, to approve the plans revision date 08.31.2021 with the aforementioned conditions relative to the illicit discharge statement and submittal of a SWPPP for review and acceptance prior to the issuance of a building permit. The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Notice of Intent – 23-25 Gurney Road

Mr. Desmarais called the public hearing back to order. Jon Connell, of SITEC, was present. Mr. Connell stated the remaining comments are very similar to the previous hearing, to submit the SWPPP and fabrication of a drainage plate for one of the basins. They have provided a 10-foot path to access the Town owned property in the back.

A motion was Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to close the public hearing. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to approve the plans revision date 08.31.2021 with the aforementioned conditions relative to the illicit discharge statement and submittal of a SWPPP for review and acceptance prior to the issuance of a building permit, as well as our peer review engineer reviewing the grate structure for effectiveness, and if it is not effective, they will work with the applicant to come up with a solution. The motion carries unanimously.

Notice of Intent – Mill Brook Bogs Restoration Project - Howland Road

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Chris Mather, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carries unanimously.

Alex Hackman, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration, stated that the site is an abandoned/retired commercial cranberry farm that is permanently protected through an easement and a state Wildlife Management Area. They are going to use coordinated restoration tactics to restore the area for public use and enjoyment. Mr. Hackman showed pictures of a previous project they did in Plymouth and what that looks like. Mr. Hackman explained that the site has been abandoned for years. There is a stream that runs through the site however it is not deemed to be in good condition. There is a dam on the bottom of the site that causes flooding and has severely degraded the wetland. They are proposing to have active wetland and stream restoration within the former cranberry farm and have passive wetland restoration outside the former cranberry farm. They are going to add some roughness to the site, such as adding wood into the stream channel.

Mr. Desmarais stated asked if they are going to be expanding the footprint of the wetland. Mr. Hackman replied that the wetland area is not going to expand beyond the farm area. Mr. Desmarais asked if the drainage structures will be removed. Mr. Desmarais asked if this will help with groundwater quality. Mr. Hackman stated wetland plants have the ability to remove nitrogen and improved water quality will be a result of this restoration.

Vincent Medeiros, 12 Cranberry Drive, asked if flooding will be worse. Mr. Hackman replied that there will not be any flooding as a result of the restoration. Mr. Medeiros stated that he is on the other side of the retention pond. Mr. Hackman stated they are going to unplug the pipe that is there and let the water find its way to the channel. Mr. Medeiros asked what happens to the wildlife that is already there. Mr. Hackman stated that this will be a disturbance to the wildlife however they try to work at a certain time of year and try to work in one spot at a time to mitigate the temporary disturbance to the wildlife.

Christopher Adey, 7 Friend Street, stated his family uses the bog often, asked if it will still be enjoyable to walk on or will it be all wet and marsh-like. Mr. Hackman replied that there will be a hiking trail that will enable the public to walk around almost the whole site. There will be some boardwalks to allow water to pass underneath.

Chad Gilbert, 115 Howland Road, asked what the timeline is for this project. Mr. Hackman stated that permitting will take all through early 2022, construction should be started next June-July. There will be a 6-12-month construction period. Mr. Hackman suggested a neighborhood communication list to provide the neighbors with updates. Mr. Gilbert asked about gates or structures to prevent ATV/dirt bike vehicles from destroying to work you are doing there. Mr. Hackman stated they try to block the entrances where they can, however some entrances will be needed and there is nothing that can be done to deter the ATV/dirt bikes. Mr. Hackman stated that he would be happy to take a walk with some of the residents if there are certain spots they think ATV's will try to come in through.

Richard Mouradian, 77 Howland Road, asked about the parking area, if it will be expanded or remain as is. Mr. Hackman responded that they would resurface it and expanded it a little bit for a couple more spots.

Mr. Desmarais asked if they will be amenable to scheduling a site visit open to the public or not. Mr. Hackman stated the more the merrier. Mr. Desmarais asked if he could share the slideshow. Mr. Hackman replied absolutely.

Colette Vincent, 10 Cranberry Drive, asked how they will be accessing the site with the heavy equipment. Mr. Hackman stated they will be coming through the Mass Wildlife area with the gate off of Howland Road. Ms. Vincent asked what penalties and fines they should be looking at for these ATV's. Mr. Hackman responded blocking access points is one way, but it is hard to find solutions to this.

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

Discussion on 21 Point of Pines Request for Certificate of Compliance

Mr. Desmarais stated they are looking to close out the order of conditions, all conditions have been complied with.

A motion was made by Chris Mather, seconded by Charlie Sullivan, to issue a complete certificate of compliance. The motion carries unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Charlie Sullivan, seconded by Keith Mello, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Victoria D'Antoni, Senior Clerk