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Freetown Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Monday, September 19, 2016 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

Present: Keven Desmarais, Christopher Mather, Janine Robidoux, Charles Sullivan, and Maria Ternullo.

Absent: None.

Call to order: Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of August 15th were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Mather, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 4 Cleveland Avenue, East Freetown

Mr. Desmarais called the public hearing to order. A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mrs. Ternullo, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. The motion carried unanimously.

Larry Silva of Silva Engineering was present to discuss the project, which involves rehabilitating a residential property that has long been neglected. They are proposing new septic, a new well, and renovations of the house. They have the proper distance to all surrounding wells with the exception of 11 Pickens Avenue, which they believe will not be an issue with the Board of Health. For septic purposes, they are treating the project as a septic repair.

Mr. Desmarais asked where the existing septic system is. Mr. Silva stated they are not exactly sure what the existing system is or where it is. John Parks, property owner, stated the bathroom was in the southerly bump-out of the house, and that in his memory water drained through a pipe and went to possibly a cesspool; the home has not been in use since about 1964 and there was likely no significant septic system. Mr. Desmarais noted that the commission has a preference to see existing systems removed, along with a margin of about ten feet around, but that it is not a hard and fast rule. Mr. Desmarais asked if the footprint of the house would be changed, and Mr. Silva said it would not – that some portions may need to be replaced, but no change in where the foundation would be.

Mr. Silva offered that trees noted for removal would be marked before the work took place. He also noted the quality of the land, noting that concrete shuffleboard courts from the 60s or earlier are completely intact with no damage. Mr. Desmarais asked about the existing garage, and Mr. Silva responded there would be no change to the footprint or size of the garage. Mr. Parks noted at most the garage might be re-sided.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Mather, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Mather, to approve the plans as submitted with the following condition: That copies of a revised plan be submitted, showing the siltation control wrapping around the southern portion of the house and also the actual or approximate location of the existing septic system. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Forge Road Bridge, Assonet

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue a complete certificate. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Forest Cutting Plan – Dr. Braley Road, East Freetown

A Forest Cutting Plan was received for the Kendrick farm on Dr. Braley Road. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to place the plan on file. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Meeting Items

It was acknowledged that articles have been submitted for the October special town meeting that would make amendments to the zoning map to reflect open space and recreation areas, and also to consider transferring some tax title land in Weetamoe Heights to the Conservation Commission.

Designation of Single Member to Sign Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to designate Mr. Desmarais as the single member to sign bills, etc., under the provisions of Section 58 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. The motion carried unanimously. This will take effect November 7, 2016.

Continued Notice of Intent – Lamb’s Village, East Chipaway Road, East Freetown

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue the hearing to Monday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 46 South Main St. (Assonet Burying Ground), Assonet

Brief discussion was held on the proposal, which is to extend an existing cemetery road to the river to create a firebreak between the wooded cemetery property and neighboring wooded properties. This is in response to a small ground fire that was had in the cemetery in early July.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue a negative determination #3. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to pay bills as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

Commissioners signed a Certificate of Compliance for the 1992 Assonet Bay Shores waterline project, to replace an original certificate issued in January of 1996 and subsequently lost without being recorded. A copy of the 1996 certificate was on file for verification.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk