

**Freetown Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, July 11, 2016 Meeting  
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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**Present:** Keven Desmarais, Janine Robidoux, and Charles Sullivan.

**Absent:** Christopher Mather and Maria Ternullo.

**Call to order:** Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of June 13th were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

**Continued Notice of Intent – 30 Washburn Road ("Rocky Woods"), East Freetown**

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearing to order. It was announced that the peer review of the environmental engineering was not yet complete, so the hearing would be continued to the August meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to Monday, August 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. The motion carried unanimously.

**Continued Request for Determination of Applicability – Hart Lot & 0 Bullock Road, East Freetown**

Evan Watson of Prime Engineering was present to discuss the submission. Peter Hawes, property owner, was also present. Mr. Desmarais reviewed comments that had been submitted by Environmental Partners Group, as well as Mr. Watson's responses to certain specific comments. Additional comments from Pinebrook Consulting were reviewed that verified Prime Engineering's responses.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the plans as submitted, issuing a positive determination #2a, that the boundary delineations of the resource areas are confirmed as accurate. The motion carried unanimously.

**Notice of Right of First Refusal – Sawmill Lane & Ethel S. Austin Lot, East Freetown**

A letter was received from Acushnet Saw Mills via their forester, Mike Labossiere, notifying the town of their intention to remove 23.43 acres of forestland off Bullock Road from the Chapter 61 program in order to change the use of the property. It was noted that this site was previously approved for a solar farm.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to sign a letter stating that the Conservation Commission was not interested in purchasing the property. The motion carried unanimously.

**Notice of Intent – 64 Narrows Road, Assonet**

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

Bob Berube of Proline Engineering was present to discuss the project, which consists of constructing a single-family dwelling complete with septic system, driveway, landscaping, utilities, and associated work on the third lot of the former Kelson compound. Warren Verga and Helen Reed, property owners, were also present. Mr. Berube reviewed the highlights of the plan. He described the placement of the driveway, noted as awkward, as being a result of the location of the retaining wall installed by the town when "new" Narrows Road was widened, graded, and paved in about 1992. The property owners were looking to have a driveway with less pitch, so they opted to wrap the driveway further down "new" Narrows Road to where the ground levels out with the paved road.

Mr. Desmarais asked if any comments had been received from Natural Heritage. Mr. Berube stated he had walked the property with Amy (no last name given, but recognized by the chairman) who stated there should not be any issues with the property. The primary concern would have been for turtles, but the property did not seem conducive to occupation by turtles.

Mr. Desmarais asked about siltation control. Mr. Berube stated there would be siltation control in place. Also, that the existing tree-and-shrub line would be maintained. Mr. Berube noted that this has been a grassy lawn area for many years, so there's relatively little disturbance.

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

Mr. Desmarais noted that the silt fence/hay bale line should be fortified due to the slope. Mr. Verga asked if the siltation control could alternate between silt fence, hay bale, straw wattle, etc., depending on the conditions of specific locations. Mr. Desmarais replied that it could alternate, as long as what's there is fortified and functioning.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the plans as submitted, but not release the Order of Conditions until a letter is received from Natural Heritage giving their blessing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Notice of Intent – South Main Street Bridge @ Assonet Four Corners**

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

Jim Noyes of Greenman-Pedersen and Laura Krause of Nover-Armstrong were present to discuss the project, which consists of re-grouting portions of the 1886 single-arch bridge where the river has eroded the grout. Mr. Noyes stated that the bridge itself is structurally sound, but the grout simply needs replacing. They propose to dewater one side of the bridge, repair the grout, and then repeat the process on the other side of the bridge. Mr. Desmarais asked about the middle of the bridge, and Mr. Noyes stated the middle did not need attention; the water has only impacted the two bases of the arch.

Mr. Noyes stated that a staging area for the contractor has been proposed for the paved portion of the lot at Grandpa's Place abutting the river, to the side and rear of where the station attendant's quarters are. Mr. Desmarais asked what time of year work would be taking place, and Mr. Noyes responded likely in the fall. Mr. Desmarais asked the timeframe of the project, and Mr. Noyes responded likely three to four weeks.

Mr. Desmarais stated a pre-construction meeting would be necessary to approve the specifics of the dewatering plan, and Mr. Noyes stated that would not be an issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to approve the plans as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Request for Determination of Applicability – Locust Street Bridge, Assonet**

Mr. Noyes and Ms. Krause were present for this project also, which consists of painting the structure of the bridge and replacing the bridge deck. Mr. Noyes explained that they were originally asked to repaint the steel structure of the bridge. Through testing, it was determined that the existing paint was a lead paint, so sandblasting would be required. It was also determined through additional testing that 40% of the bridge deck was deteriorated, and the decision was made to pursue replacing the deck. Re-decking the bridge is expected to add sixty years to the life of the bridge.

Mr. Desmarais stated that this project should have a pre-construction meeting as well, and Mr. Noyes was again agreeable. Mr. Noyes anticipates that both bridges (they are being bid as one project) will be awarded to a decking company that will then sub-out the grout on South Main Street and the painting on Locust Street.

It was noted that there should be no need for stockpiling, etc. Decking debris is expected to be removed daily, and sandblasting/painting will be covered from exposure with cloth akin to the Braga Bridge in Fall River.

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

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – East Bridge (Elm Street), Assonet**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – Narrows Road Culverts, Assonet**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – Gurney Road Culvert, East Freetown**

Mr. Desmarais stated these certificates were being issued to close out the files, as certificates were not found to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds. All three projects are long-since completed. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue complete certificates to each bridge. The motion carried unanimously.

**Bills**

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

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue the hearing to Monday, August 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

**Any Other Business Properly Before the Board**

None.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk