

Plympton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – March 2, 2021
Held over Zoom Conference Call: zoom.us/j/8802901353
By Telephone: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 880 290 1353
Password: 948488

Present: Board Members: Rick Burnet, Linda Leddy and Mike Matern; and Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

Absent: Amy Cronin

Guests: Dean Smith, Borrego Solar; Tom Sedell applicant and Steve Katowski from Webby Engineering. Abutter to 0 Cedar Street: Bonnie Harlow representing Tony Rapier (her mother) of 61 Cedar Street;

1. Call to Order. Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and the suggested statement was read that was prepared by KP Law:

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Plympton Conservation Commission is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.”

2. Third-party review consultant. The Conservation Commission met with Lenore White of Wetland Strategies, Inc. She previously worked DEP in the southeast office for many years and has run her own wetland consultant business for many years since.

3. Notice of Intent (NOI) Hearing continuation for 399 Main Street, Map 24, Parcel 3 & Lot number 1, SE266-0208 - solar project. The NOI Hearing originally scheduled for 10-22-20, 02-04-20, 04-07-20, 04-21-20, 12-01-20, 01-05-21, and 02-02-21 is continued tonight. The continued public hearing is to consider a Notice of Intent, under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131 §40 and the Town of Plympton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, General Bylaws Article XXVIII (Chapter 290 as updated in October 2020) from Plympton Main Street Solar, LLC for the property at 399 Main Street, The NOI is a proposal to construct a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array.

The filing fees were discussed by Dean Smith. He mentioned that the way the Commission interpreted the fees would make the fees astronomical when applied to his project. Linda and Rick both said that compromise is necessary, but out of fairness to all applicants, whatever is decided needs to be applied to future projects until the fees are changed in the regulations. Dean Smith said that the Commission does not need to answer right away.

Matt Swanbury, the project developer at Borrego, was also present. He said that he appreciates the Commission's willingness to review the fees.

4. Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for 0 (51) Cedar Street, Map 15, Parcel 1, Lot 9 - single-family dwelling. A public hearing is to consider an RDA, under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131 §40 and the Town of Plympton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, General Bylaws Article XXVIII (Chapter 290 as updated in October 2020) from Thomas Sedell. The RDA is a proposal for a project that would construct a single-family dwelling within 100' of a wetland resource area.

Tom Sedell (Applicant). Bonnie Harlow (on behalf of Toni Rapier, mom/owner). Steve Katowski of Webby Engineering

The Natural Heritage letter was emailed on 3/1/21, and the Commission believed it to be very clear, expressing no issues about the project.

Mr. Katowski said that the plans were altered to address the Commission's concerns. The septic was moved back further from the vernal pool to give more of a buffer. Trees and a fence will be placed along the Vernal Pool line as requested by the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Rick Burnet made a motion, seconded by Mike Matern, to close the hearing. Motion passed unanimously: Rick Burnet: yes, Mike Matern: yes, Linda Leddy: yes. Motion approved 3-0.

Chairman Rick Burnet made a motion, seconded by Linda Leddy, to accept the plans as drawn and issue a Negative 3 Determination. Motion passed unanimously: Rick Burnet: aye, Mike Matern: aye, Linda Leddy: aye. Motion approved 3-0.

5. Permitting Fees. The Commission discussed planned updates to the filing fees.

6. Parking Lot issues. None.

7. Minutes. The minutes from the February 16th meeting were approved as written.

8. Next Meetings. The next meetings will be held on March 16th and April 6th at 6:30 pm. The typical meetings schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month) is subject to be modified, and will be posted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm by a motion from Ms. Leddy and seconded by Mr. Matern with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa