**Plympton Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – August 18, 2020**

**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, Amy Cronin, Linda Leddy and Mike Matern; and Conservation Agent, Brian Vasa

**Guests:** Kim and Gerald Davis, Brandon Smith (Borrego Upland Solar project) and Sami Aslam (Borrego Solar)

Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**1. Hearings.** A statement was read by the Chair pertaining to virtual meetings. In accordance with Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, Section 17, the following hearings have been automatically tolled and continued to the first hearing date of the Commission following the termination of the State of Emergency; all the current hearings must be held within 45 days, and all the newer projects can start after that period. All of the following meetings will be continued with a tentative date of September 8th as follows:

NOI Hearing continuation on 0 Maple Street - house construction, 7:00 pm

NOI Hearing continuation on 399 Main Street - solar project, 7:01 pm

NOI Hearing continuation on 0 Ring Road - Dunham Property - dual-use solar 7:02

NOI Hearing continuation on 0 Ring Road - Correira Property - dual-use solar 7:03

NOI Hearing continuation on 61 Upland Road - habitat enhancement project 7:04

**2. Process for reviewing applications during the duration of the State of Emergency**. There were questions and discussion about when the hearings can resume. Per the advice of Town Counsel, there may be types of projects that are similar and uncomplicated that can be deliberated by Zoom. It is important to treat similar projects similarly. The Commission voted the following:

The Commission may review the following applications, but only if the plans and attached narrative for each proposal can be sufficiently presented using no more than one page each. The intention is to review projects that have a clear yes/no option, versus layers of consideration, therefore some NOIs may still be deferred

 Notices of Intent (NOIs) – only simple hearings such as septic, pools, etc.

 Certificates of Compliance (COCs) – yes

Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDAs) – yes (since the commission would either vote that it is a minor/no disturbance or require an NOI

Amended Order of Conditions (OOCs) – yes (since the commission would either vote that it is a minor change or require a new NOI filing)

Guest, Mr. Aslam provided his observations that in other towns (Wareham, Freetown, Acushnet) the Zoom has worked well for projects, easier to view large drawings, allowing more public access to those with children, etc. It was noted that these were Planning Board meetings; it was requested that examples of Conservation Commissions would be helpful. It was also noted that many Town Halls are now open and large documents can be viewed. The Chair noted that this would be passed on to Town Counsel.

**3. 61 Upland Road –OOC (Order of Conditions).** Brandon Smith (Borrego) presented the changes to the OOC, a change in the road. He noted that there would be a decreased impact to the wetlands. The Commission voted to accept the amendments, and to amend the changes to the OOC. A change statement will be drafted.

**4. MBTA/Keolis - RDA - Vegetation Management Plan.** They are seeking to clear the vegetation from the train tracks; this was submitted to 103 towns and is the 5-year plan. A list of chemicals used was provided. There were no wetlands or natural habitat in the area proposed. The Commission voted to approve the plan.

**5. 0 Palmer - Enforcement Order.** A cease and desist order was sent in February. They attended a meeting in March.It was requested that a wetlands delineation be completed to prove the previous non-approved work hasn’t impacted the wetlands. A Follow-up Enforcement Letter was sent on April 22 and ignored, and so an Enforcement Order will be sent August 14th. The Commission approved this action.

**6. Website changes.** Conservation Agent, Brian Vasa updated the Commission website. It was well received, and Brian’s continued hard work is appreciated.

**7. Potential new conservation commissioners.** There may be an article in the paper for the various open slots for volunteers for the Town.

**8. 4 Mayflower Certificate of Compliance (CoC).** The Commission voted to approve the Certificate of Compliance, and Commissioners will sign the certificate.

**9. Warrants.**  A warrant was processed for the MACC Annual dues for $434.00 from the Commission's general budget; and John Chessia for his 3rd party review of Ring Road projects $750.00 and $562.50 from 53G funds (escrow account).

**10. Building Permits.** Chair Rick Burnet signed off on the following building permits prior to the meeting:

* 98 Pleasant Street - House addition
* 28 Rebecca Way - Overhang off of a barn
* 55 Elm Street - New home

**11. 0 Maple Street.** As a result of the reading of the April 21, 2020 minutes, a Commissioner asked if 0 Maple Street could submit another NOI, since it appeared it resubmission was prohibited. Amy Kwesel, Town Counsel will be consulted.

**12. Remote participation by Commissioners after Emergency.** Brian Vasa sent a note to Liz Dennehy, Town Administrator to request that the Commission members be allowed to participate remotely when they are out of town. Liz will check with the Selectmen.

**13. Remaining Considerations (Parking Lot issues).** The following are items on which the Commission still needs to act on or consider.

**Carey Auto Property.** The Commission sent the Building Department a request on June 21, 2018 to determine if sandblasting is occurring, and if so, if it is permitted. Sandblasting is a concern from a wetlands perspective as well. No response yet. A second email was sent from Amy Cronin on 9/17/19.

**14. Minutes.** The minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting were approved with amendments.

**15. Next Meetings.** The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 8th at 6:30 pm. If before that time an administrative meeting needs to be held, it will be properly posted. The typical meetings schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month) is temporarily suspended.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by a motion from Mr. Matern and seconded by Ms. Leddy with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Amy Cronin