

Plympton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – October 20, 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: Zak Farkes and Brandon Smith of Borrego Solar

Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and read the suggested statement to be made by the Chair of a public body at the start of any public meeting conducted “virtually”, 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.”

1. Continued Hearings. At the request of the applicants, the following hearings were continued.

NOI Hearing continuation on 0 Maple Street - house construction, 12/1/20
NOI Hearing continuation on 399 Main Street - solar project, 11/10/20

2. NOI Hearing continuation on 61 Upland Road solar project: habitat enhancement project. Brandon Smith of Borrego Solar gave an update of the project. It was noted that the Commission’s 3rd party expert, Tom Liddy of Lucas Environmental had not provided his report yet. They received a Conservation Management Permit from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program for the box turtles to ensure a net zero change in the habitat. An easement will be done so that the area will remain undisturbed.

As a reminder, the project includes 20 acres of solar and over 120 acres of agricultural use (bogs and pools) and the actual conservation habitat is approximately 60 acres. The entire project is 200 acres and abuts town property. The hearing will be continued until November 10th at 7:02 pm.

3. 122 Main Street proposed house construction RDA. The Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) was discussed as part of a previous project where a vernal pool was identified; concerns were raised that the plans may not be accurate, and could be under the

jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Bylaw.

4. Site walk on 0 Palmer. Commissioners Rick Burnet, Amy Cronin and Brian Vasa did a site visit last Friday. There was a lot of Japanese Clover that covered much of the property. The removed fill left depressions that appear to now be wetlands. It does appear work was done in the buffer of the wetlands. The neighbor had complained about flooding and she had a wetlands delineation completed. Joe Webby of Webby Engineering and the owner, Brian Madden from LEC Environmental and Kevin Farrell were present. They will complete some more soil sampling on the property. It was originally permitted for a home, and the plans have changed to a commercial building (reduced from two commercial buildings). They had received a cease and desist in the past, and they are still under that cease and desist.

5. Warrants. None.

6. Building Permits. Chair, Rick Burnet signed off on the following permits prior to the meeting:

- 6 Cross Street swimming pool
- 34 Spring Street, barn addition
- 52 Lake Street, 10 x 10 deck
- 138 Center Street, house construction

7. Plans Posting. Brian Vasa, Conservation Agent took the initiative to put the plans online for public viewing for the projects under consideration.

8. Parking Lot issues. It was questioned where the vernal pools are listed in the town.

9. Minutes. The minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

10. Next Meetings. The next scheduled meetings will be held on November 10th (to avoid election day), and December 1st (to avoid Thanksgiving) 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 7:45 pm by a motion from Ms. Leddy and seconded by Mr. Matern with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Amy Cronin