

Plympton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – November 10, 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, Linda Leddy and Mike Matern; and Conservation Agent, Brian Vasa

Not Present: Amy Cronin

Guests: Zak Farkes and Brandon Smith of Borrego Solar

Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 6:44 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 applicant, the following hearing was continued.

NOI Hearing continuation on 399 Main Street - solar project, 12/1/20

2. NOI Hearing continuation on 61 Upland Road solar project: habitat enhancement project. Brandon Smith of Borrego Solar gave an update of the project. Zak Farkes was also present.

Brandon stated that Tom Liddy of Lucas Environmental sent back his report from the NOI review. All comments were resolved and he was satisfied with the responses provided.

Brandon stated that the Habitat Creation Plan is being updated to make it consistent with the amended order that the Commission reviewed.

He said that changes were made to the plans to make less of an impact to the wetland resources. They moved most of the work to buffer regions.

Steven Riberdy, GZA, turtle biologist, stated that there were a substantial number of turtles, box and spotted, found during their sweeps, in the back of cranberry bog and forested area.

He will give the Town advice on turtle habitat on town land abutting the property.

Zak Farkes and Brandon said that the project will likely start next spring at the earliest. Since the project consists of a former gravel pit, they want to be careful of erosion issues. They may possibly start in May depending on the conditions this winter.

Borrego stated that they will be responsible for the annual reporting for the first 5 years, then someone else will be responsible after that.

Rick Burnet said that a pre-construction meeting will allow for good advice for the turtle habitat and make sure everything is done properly. Also, the Commission looks forward to being kept apprised of the progress on the project.

Brandon stated that the project will not be restricting bog access for neighborhood walkers, as most of the bog will still be farmed. The only limiting access will be around the solar project. Only informative signs will be installed at the turtle conservation area.

Prior to the meeting, Brandon submitted two waiver requests for the project: 1) for habitat creation work within the 50' inner buffer zone and resource area and 2) for habitat creation work within rare species habitat.

The hearing was closed, and the Commission voted to approve the project based on the latest set of updated plans dated 10/23/20 and the two waivers mentioned above.

MOTION (Mike): To accept the project as presented in the final plan.

SECOND (Linda)

VOTED and approved by all present.

3. NOI Hearing for 17 Old Farm Lane - SE266-0214 - Barn/Shed Construction:

Steve Kotowski from Webby Engineering presented the project to the Commission. He stated that the project consists of constructing a barn near two BVWs. The wetland delineation was performed in July 2019. The siltation barrier will be the limit of work to protect the wetland resource area. The storage building will primarily be used for tractors and equipment. It will be a shallow foundation, if any. Mr. Kotowski said that once the area is regraded, there isn't any anticipated activity beyond storing things in there.

Rick asked if the area around the site had been cleared for a while. Mr. Kotowski believed it had been. Mike said that he was disturbed that the wetland buffer was cleared already. He also said the plan should already have a driveway on it.

Rick would like to know which side of the barn will have access. The Commission requested that the plans be revised to show the entrance to the barn, dimensions, materials, and driveway.

The Commission intends to conduct a site walk after they are notified of all of the required markers being in place.

Continued to 12/15/20 at 7:03pm, but it may be pushed further back depending on when new plans are received and the site walk scheduled. Also, abutters need to be re-notified about the next hearing due to the inaccurate information on the previous notification.

4. RDA Hearing for 122 Main Street - Proposed house construction.

Steve Kotowski from Webby Engineering was present for the hearing, representing the applicant.

It was brought to the Commission's attention that Webby Engineering's abutter notifications incorrectly stated that the Conservation Commission meeting would be at the Town Hall, not virtual via Zoom. Out of fairness to any potential abutter concerns, the Commission required Webby reissue abutter notification forms to abutters with correct information about zoom, not in person, for both the 122 Main Street and 17 Old Farm Lane projects.

The hearing was continued to 12/15/20 at 7:04pm, but it may be pushed back depending on when the abutters receive their notifications and how many hearings are on that meeting.

5. Warrants. Express Newspapers: \$84 for 2 legal ads

MACC: \$60 an individual membership for Brian Vasa

6. Building Permits. None

7. Minutes. The minutes from the October 20, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

8. Next Meetings. The next scheduled meetings will be held on December 1st (to avoid Thanksgiving) and December 15th 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 7:55 pm by a motion from Ms. Leddy and seconded by Mr. Matern with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa