

Plympton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Open Meeting – February 4, 2020

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

Not Present: Marta Nover

Mr. Burnet called the meeting to order at 6:45

1. Correspondence.

- 4 Mayflower will be submitting an NOI for a septic system
- 0 Pleasant Street (adjacent to 33 Pleasant) didn't have a wetlands delineation for perc test, but was getting one completed, and the Commission recommended it be completed by a licensed wetlands scientist.
- Eversource notification of right of way clearing for their power lines

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New Business

2. Building Permits Received.

227 Brook Street, 5 stall horse barn and tack room and loft above. Owner Raymond Immoren submitted a permit for a barn. The Commission determined that it is not within the jurisdiction of the Commission (determined to be non-jurisdictional) and was signed off.

3. Warrant. A warrant was signed to pay Grady Engineering \$1283 for engineering for the third Prospect Road lot that is for sale.

Old Business

4. NOI Hearing Continuation, 0 Lake Street Solar Project, Map 3, Parcel/Lot Number 2-8, 2-13. The project is to construct a ground mounted and floating solar array on agricultural land owned by Harju Brothers Cranberries, Inc. The Notice of Intent will be considered under the Wetlands Protection act, M.G.L. c 131 §40. Representatives of the project present were Sarah Sterns of Beals and Thomas, and Patrick Jackson of Sunraise.

It was noted that there are no wetlands impact, and the work within the buffer zone has been limited.

Commissioner Burnet asked about the interconnection area; Sarah noted there's no road going through – they will use the existing bog road from West Street. Everything is underground until West Street. The planting plan (lower shrub screening) was discussed to satisfy the neighbors through the Planning Board process. It was noted that the applicant is negotiating with the Natural Heritage program to preserve a quantity of land (possibly 18-22 acres) for the Eastern Box turtle. Continuing monitoring and approval by the neighbors will be in effect, including the health of the plants going forward.

There were questions about ensuring the tree clearing will not go beyond what has been approved. Sarah Stearns assured the Commission that there will be training, fencing and oversight by the project manager during the cutting; this will be a condition in the order.

There will also be a wildlife biologist on-site.

The hearing was closed, and the Commission voted to approve the project based on the latest set of updated plans dated 1/27/2020. The order of conditions will be forthcoming.

5. POSTPONED: 0 Maple Street NOI Hearing Continuation – single family home construction (Map 6, Parcel & lot numbers 2-3a). The hearing was continued until March 24th at the request of the applicant.

6. NOI Hearing Continuation, 399 Main Street Solar Project, Map 24, Parcel 3 & Lot 1. The project is to construct a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array. The Notice of Intent will be considered under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131 §40 and the Town of Plympton Wetland Protection Act General Municipal Bylaw Section XXVIII. Dean Smith of Borrego Solar and owner Katherine Figueroa were present. The wetlands flagging was changed and approved by the 3rd party reviewer, Art Allen of EcoTec. The project is approximately 7 acres. According to Dean Smith, the project is largely outside the 0-50' buffer, and 535 ft² clearing within the 0-50' buffer but outside the 25' buffer. In the 50-100' buffer there is ¾ acre of clearing. The existing road is in the 25' buffer. There would be transportation through the buffer area during construction. The Commission noted that a waiver would be required for the 0-50' buffer. It was noted by Dean Smith that this project is a work in progress as the engineering review is not complete. It was requested to continue the hearing until March 10th.

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

Letter Regarding Work Near Wetlands - Property on Rt. 58 near town line. There has been no response to the letter was written from the Conservation Commission to Amanda Monti reminding her that any work within 100' of the bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) or 200' of a river must be first approved by the Commission. It was noted that clearing had been done, and the Commission requested a site walk to review the work.

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 e-mail was sent from Amy Cronin on 9/17/19.

Gazzola County Road DEP Case. Need an update for this.

Minutes. The minutes from the 01/07/20 and 01/21/20 meetings were reviewed and approved with amendments.

Next Meetings: The next meetings will be held February 18th, and likely March 10 and 24st at 6:30 pm. Meetings are typically held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by a motion from Mr. Matern and seconded by Ms. Leddy, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Amy Cronin