

**Plympton Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of Open Meeting – July 2, 2019**

**Present:** Board Members: Amy Cronin, Ami Dion, Linda Leddy, Mike Matern

**Not Present:** Rick Burnet and Marta Nover

Ms. Dion called the meeting to order at 6:45

**1. Correspondence.** A letter from attorney Adam Brodsky from June 20<sup>th</sup> was received.

MACC Correspondence regarding renewing membership.

**New Business**

**2. Building Permits Received.**

**Heather's Path Single Family Home Construction.** A Notice of Intent (NOI) needs to be submitted because there are wetlands in the area; the plan doesn't show all the information needed to make the determination.

**Old Business**

**3. 0 Lake Street, Solar Project.** Eric Las from Beals & Thomas Engineering and Kevin Corbett of Sunraise submitted an NOI for 0 Lake Street on behalf of the owner, Mr. Larry Harju. A check was submitted for \$142 and the notification to abutters was sent today. The hearing will open on July 16, 2019 at 7:15 pm.

**4. 0 Main Street Solar Project, Map 21-4-7: Continuation of the ANRAD Hearing (DEP File SE 266-0205).** The Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) continuation hearing sought to delineate the bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) for a future proposed solar project along Route 58 where there are currently bogs. Evan Watson of Prime Engineering, Kevin Corbett of Sunraise and Larry Harju, owner Harju Brothers Cranberries, Inc. were present. Mr. Watson presented the plan showing the wetland resource areas and reviewed the bogs they're looking to develop. The third-party reviewer, Art Allen from EcoTec was also present.

The presentation was in response to Art Allen's May 15, 2019 report from his walk through; Board Member, Rick Burnet participated on the walk-through. Mr. Watson pointed out one potential vernal pool on the plan that will be avoided as if it *were* a confirmed vernal pool. Mr. Harju noted that the property lines on the plan being shown are not accurate, as some of the land belongs to abutter, Mr. Richard Poole. Mr. Watson said that the property line will be corrected. Mr. Allen noted that most of the wetlands would be on Mr. Poole's property.

The Commission had to decide if the bogs were upland bogs or wetland bogs. Mr. Allen noted that if the area was no longer irrigated, he believed it would probably become dry (wouldn't support wetland vegetation). The engineer pointed out that the elevation of the bogs is 17' from the wetlands; if not irrigated, it would become uplands. Two pumps are employed to maintain the irrigation to the bogs. Mr. Harju explained the complexities of the 100-acre property (for which they sought 20 acres) on land that wasn't producing great cranberries

while still meeting the setback requirements. The solar fields would be within the living bogs. They ensure the solar panels will never be covered by water. It was questioned if there could be chemical leakage from the panels. Mr. Watson noted that there's only glass with silicone between; the manufacturing includes chemicals, but the final product does not. They use galvanized steel mounted in the ground for the solar panel stands and they are warranted for 25 years. The plan showed 3 separate solar areas producing approximately 5.5 megawatts; they were unsure of the acreage but thought it was approximately 20 acres.

It was requested that the Commission approve the wetlands as delineated and determine if the bogs 1 and 2 are regulated resource areas or upland bogs. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the delineation and to denote the two bogs as functionally upland bogs. The Commission will do the ORAD for this project with 21 days to issue it. In the future, the applicants will bring in an NOI.

**5. 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 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.

**(possibly resolved) 12 Prospect.** Brandon Faneuf, Wetlands Soil Scientist of Ecosystem Solutions, Inc. representing Kim and Keith Wallace appeared before the Commission to discuss his report. As background, there was activity observed on the property that was possibly in the wetlands. A barn was put up without a permit, and from the Wallace's old plans, it appeared a fence was constructed in the wetlands. The Commission required an updated wetlands delineation be done, and to have the Commission come out and view the property; it was likely that the fence would need to be moved.

Mr. Faneuf confirmed that portions of the fence were previously in the wetlands. He also noted that the cordwood and brush piles were 125' from the wetlands. There were questions about the perennial stream, which would require 200' for other structures, but a fence couldn't impede wildlife movement. It was noted that the Wallace's have two free range horses. It appears that the property wouldn't fall within the agricultural exemptions. There were concerns about the horses impacting the wetlands water quality. The Commission voted to require the fence to be moved at least 75' from the bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) boundary. It was requested that a letter be sent to the Commission from Mr. Faneuf confirming the understanding, containing with the Wallace's signatures indicating their

agreement. Mr. Faneuf agreed to inform the Wallace's that they have a perennial stream on their property and that will also be in the letter. There is a possibility that Mr. Faneuf may submit an ANRAD during the Spring or Summer in an attempt to declassify the perennial stream.

**Minutes.** No minutes were reviewed.

**Next Meetings:** The next meetings will be held on Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> to review the Regulations for approval, potentially Thursday July 18 for a Regulations hearing, Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> to review solar bylaws, and August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The meetings are typically held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by a motion from Ms. Leddy and seconded by Mr. Matern, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Amy Cronin