



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of Acushnet  
Conservation Commission  
130 Main Street, Acushnet MA 02743  
Tel: 508.998.0202

Robert Rocha, Chairman  
Everett Philla, Vice- Chairman  
Heidi Pelletier  
Evelyn Bouley  
Paul Valente  
Richard Pimentel  
Ryan Rezendes

Merilee Kelly, Conservation Agent  
Joann DeMello, Senior Clerk

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2020  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

RECEIVED  
2021 JAN 27 P 12:29

<b>Present:</b>	Robert Rocha Everett Philla Heidi Pelletier Ryan Rezendes	<b>Absent:</b>	Evelyn Bouley Paul Valente Richard Pimentel
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Merilee Kelly, Agent  
Joann DeMello

Richard Riccio, Field Engineering  
Brandon Smith, Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.  
Devin Batchelder, Weston & Sampson  
Robert Bukowski, Weston & Sampson  
Annie Jung, Syncarpha Park Drive, LLC

**I. Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. held via zoom.**

**II. Minutes for approval:**

A motion was made by E. Philla to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020.  
R. Rezendes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**III. Meeting Mail:** Hamlin Street project – concerns about the fish; addressed with MassDOT.

**IV. Appointments:** None.

**V. Old Business:** None.

## **VI. New Business:**

### **NOI – BWC Mill Pond, LLC – Off Gammons Rd & Mattapoissett Rd SE 001 -**

**XXXX**. A Notice of Intent was filed by BWC Mill Pond, LLC for property located off Gammons Road & Mattapoissett Road, Map 10, Lots 1.2, 1A.3A and 3; Map 9 Lot 32. The applicant proposes to construct a solar power generating facility on the subject parcels. Portions of the work including the proposed access drive, stormwater management facilities and tree clearing areas are located within the 100' buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands located on the subject parcels. The applicant is represented by Richard Riccio of Field Engineering Co., Inc. The Commission conducted a site visit on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Riccio was present on the zoom call and presented an overview of the project. It's a large parcel located on the Mattapoissett/Acushnet Town line. 6.2 Megawatt with 15,000 panels on 24 acres of fenced area – all outside the buffer zone. Stormwater management is within the buffer zone. Mr. Riccio shared a plan of the project. They will utilize an existing gravel road for access; they will file a NOI with the Mattapoissett Conservation Commission. Agent Kelly asked how does the stormwater work? Mr. Riccio said no changes in grade – runoff either goes to the east or west. Silt fence and straw wattles will be used to reduce runoff during construction, it's a flat area. Agent Kelly asked what will make the area a meadow? Clover mix will be used with a pollinator species. Small wildlife will be able to get into the array area. A track foundation system allows panels to move with the sun. An energy storage compartment is required by the State. I-beam posts will be driven into the ground; no concrete will be used except for the concrete pad. R. Rezendes asked how long is the life span? Joshua Larisey replied about 25 to 30 years. R. Rezendes asked what material is used for the panels? Mr. Larisey said racking is made of steel and the frame modules are aluminum. Chairman Rocha asked if the zoom audience had any questions? None. Chairman Rocha stated the DEP file number was not received, table to next meeting. E. Philla made a motion to table to the next meeting. R. Rezendes seconded the motion. Roll call vote Heidi – Yes; Everett – Yes; Ryan – Yes; Chairman Rocha – Yes. Motion Passed 4-0.

**COC – GDC Development, LLC / 1428 Main Street** A Certificate of Compliance was filed by GDC Development, LLC for property located at 1428 Main Street, Map 5 Lot 6A. The applicant proposed to construct a single family dwelling with associated grading and septic system. Commission conducted a site visit on Saturday. Agent Kelly said the site is all finished. E. Philla said it looks good. E. Philla made a motion to issue a certificate of compliance. H. Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote Heidi – Yes; Everett – Yes; Ryan – Yes, Chairman Rocha – Yes. Motion passed 4-0.

**NOI – Johnelle & Christopher Ciano / 52 Morse's Lane SE 001 -XXXX** A Notice of Intent was filed by Johnelle and Christopher Ciano for property located at 52 Morse's Lane, Map 17, Lots 24, 24B and 24C. The applicant proposes to construct a 5 MW ground mounted solar energy generating and storage system. The applicant is represented by Brandon Smith of Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. Commission conducted a site visit on Saturday. Brandon Smith was present on the zoom call and presented an overview of the project. Mr. Smith shared a plan. 17,000 panels with galvanized steel racking will be installed. The gravel road is existing, 7 foot chain link fence with 6" gap at the bottom for wildlife access. 2 equipment pads including energy storage will be placed on-site. There will be minimal tree cutting and the central wetland area will

remain wooded. Stormwater report included installing a road side swale to capture run-off to the Southeast corner basin. Chairman Rocha mentioned that the stormwater calculations were provided to the Commission. Agent Kelly asked what is going underneath the solar array? Mr. Smith said they will use pollinator mix and wildflower mix. Chairman Rocha asked what will be used for erosion control? Mr. Smith said a silt fence will be used along with stump grindings. A grinder will be on-site for stumps, a small berm allows water to pass thru, similar to woodchips to trap sediment. E. Philla asked if the vernal pools are certified? Chairman Rocha said all that they would need is to have the owner grant permission to certify the vernal pool. Photos would be taken during March thru April to see if eggs and the adults of obligate vernal pool species are nearby. Chairman Rocha asked the zoom audience had any questions? Agent Kelly stated the next solar project located at Park Drive is only 400 feet away. Chairman Rocha stated the DEP file number was not received, table to next meeting. E. Philla made a motion to table to the next meeting. H. Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote Heidi – Yes; Everett – Yes; Ryan – Yes; Chairman Rocha – Yes. Motion passed 4-0.

**NOI – White’s Farm, Inc. / Off Park Drive SE 001-0553** A Notice of Intent was filed by White’s Farm, Inc. for property located Off Park Drive, Map 17, Lot 22B.13. The applicant proposes to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array consisting of 4999 kW and battery storage project within the 100’ foot buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. The applicant is represented by Mel Higgins of Weston & Sampson Engineers. Commission conducted a site visit on Saturday. Robert Bukowski of Weston & Sampson Engineers was present on the zoom call and presented an overview of the project. Existing access road will be improved to a gravel roadway. No new poles are proposed. The perennial stream is well outside of the 200 foot zone. The access road will be a direct impact to the wetlands, a wetlands replication plan is on file. Straw wattles will be used around the perimeter. Battery storage is located at the center of the site. Agent Kelly asked where is Deep Brook Estates from this location? Well outside the 200 ft. riverfront area. They will be using a low growth seed mix. Agent Kelly asked what will be used for the replication area? 30 trees, 30 shrubs and 200 ferns. Agent Kelly asked about using wetland soils. Devin Batchelder said anything that gets dug up on-site is good soil and will get reused. A monitoring plan has been submitted and includes 2 years of monitoring to ensure vegetation success. Chairman Rocha asked about drainage and discharge. Mr. Bukowski said there are some impervious areas with the addition of the pads...they have designed basins for stormwater with no increase in stormwater rates. Agent Kelly asked about using paper streets? Mr. Bukowski said all of the land for the access roads is owned by the Whites. R. Rezendes asked about the perennial stream and how close it is to the solar array? D. Batchelder flagged it and stated it is more than 200 feet away. Chairman Rocha asked if the zoom audience had any questions? None. E. Philla made a motion to issue a positive order of conditions. H. Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote Heidi – Yes; Everett – Yes; Ryan – Yes; Chairman Rocha – Yes. Motion passed 4-0.

## **VII. Discussion:**

**Wetlands By-Law** Chairman Valente was not in attendance for this meeting. Table to next meeting.

**Hunting on Conservation Land** Commission is researching the next steps...check with Town Administrator, Park Department, BOH and Town Counsel.

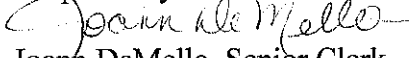
**VIII. Agent Updates:** Agent Kelly said the Hamlin Street Bridge replacement work is exempt from a filing. The Commission received a water quality certification application that can be commented on.

Agent Kelly was notified that an extension of the Riverwalk beyond the Titleist building up to the Council on Aging is planned.


**Meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.**

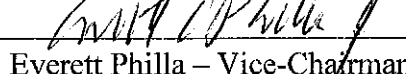
A motion to adjourn was made by E. Philla. The motion was seconded by R. Rezendes. Motion passed 4-0.

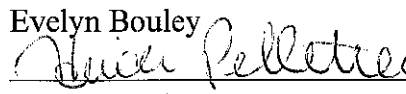
Respectfully submitted:

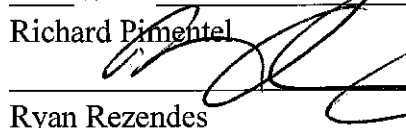
  
Joann DeMello, Senior Clerk  
Acushnet Conservation Commission

Minutes Approved:

  
Robert Rocha - Chairman

  
Everett Philla - Vice-Chairman  
absent

Evelyn Bouley  
  
Heidi Pelletier  
absent

Richard Pimentel  
  
Ryan Rezendes  
absent

Paul Valente

Date signed: January 12, 2021

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