

*Damon Tinio, Chairman
Peter Coffin, Vice Chairman*



*Michael Ammendolia
William Aten
Timothy Aicardi*

TOWN OF MENDON

Conservation Commission
Mendon Town Hall
Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2015

Attending: P. Coffin, W. Aten, T. Aicardi; Mildred Kampersal, Catherine Ghelli, 36 Milford St abutters; Pierre Gelinas, 136 Uxbridge Rd; DeWayne Hevelone, Jim McCullough, Mendon residents interested in solar; Andrea Kendall, LEC Environmental; Lexi Barlow, Mike Marsch, Blue Wave Capital.

Vice-Chairman P. Coffin called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

T. Aicardi made and W. Aten seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated March 11, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from FEMA dated 3/13/15 regarding upcoming Risk MAP Discovery Meetings for the Charles Watershed.

The Commissioners reviewed the BOS Routing Slip for Phat Brothers LLC dba Mendon Twin Drive In at 35 Milford St for an alteration of their licensed premises for wine and malt beverages. They found no issues. Vice-Chairman P. Coffin signed the slip. **All members were in agreement.**

The Commissioners reviewed a Request for Jurisdictional Project Determination for 1 Cape Rd for a porch off the back of an existing pavilion. W. Aten asked if it required an extension of the pavilion foundation. T. Aicardi, as the town's Building Inspector, had seen more detailed plans and confirmed that the project just involves two sonotubes. Therefore, the work was determined to have no impact on wetlands. **All members were in agreement for the approval of the Jurisdictional Project Determination for 1 Cape Rd.**

Vice-Chairman P. Coffin opened the Notice of Intent hearing for 36 Milford St for a photovoltaic solar array at 7:45 PM. This project involves a twenty year land lease from the town with the potential for a five year extension. The existing lot is 32 acres of mostly forested land with wetlands associated with Muddy Brook, as well as some isolated wetlands. The proposed project is for a 1.5 megawatt system within 6.5 acres. This project falls within the 100 foot buffer zone of a wetland but it meets local setback requirements by staying outside of the 25 foot no disturb zone and only placing fencing in the 50 foot no build zone. No wetlands will be filled and erosion control will be used. The project falls within wood turtle habitat, as noted by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). The company is working with NHESP to make accommodations for the wood turtles, such as: keeping construction 300 feet away from Muddy Brook, designing fencing around the detention pond to keep turtles out, limiting tree grubbing and stumping to the array area itself and flush cutting elsewhere, cutting during the inactive wood turtle season, and creating a wood turtle protection plan. Vice-Chairman P. Coffin had concerns with the frequency of grass maintenance interfering with the grass actually being able to grow. A. Kendall explained that the site will only be mowed about three times a year. Vice-Chairman P. Coffin also had concerns about the concentration of runoff from the panels affecting how the water would shed off of the site. They explained that the Army Corps of Engineers has studied this concept thoroughly and concluded that solar panels do not result in a change in the overall flow of water on a site. M. Kampersal and C. Ghelli, abutters, had concerns about drainage from the project site affecting the nearby cranberry bog. This will not be an issue because the water on this site flows to the south, away from the bog. They also had concerns about the noise of the inverters and whether the system would be visible from their property. For those types of concerns, the Commissioners referred them to the Planning Board meeting on April 13. The Commissioners scheduled a site visit for April 4 at 9AM. The hearing will need to be continued pending a response from NHESP and feedback from the site visit. **T. Aicardi made and W. Aten seconded a motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 36 Milford St until their April 9 meeting at 7:45PM. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Commissioners reviewed a Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 136 Uxbridge Rd. The work had been completed. **T. Aicardi made and W. Aten seconded a motion to approve a Certificate of Compliance for 136 Uxbridge Rd as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

W. Aten made and T. Aicardi seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Cameron, Administrative Clerk

Documents Discussed located in the Conservation Commission Office:

Meeting minutes of March 11, 2015

FEMA letter dated 3/13/15 regarding upcoming Risk MAP Discovery Meetings

BOS Routing Slip for: Phat Brothers LLC dba Mendon Twin Drive In

Jurisdictional Project Determination for: 1 Cape Rd

Notice of Intent for: 36 Milford St

Request for Certificate of Compliance & Certificate of Compliance for: 136 Uxbridge Rd