

**Fremont Conservation Commission
8-01-11 Meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of August 1, 2011
Approved September 12, 2011**

Present: Chairman Janice O'Brien, Co-Chairman Bill Knee, Member Pat deBeer, and Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.
Also present: Dennis Howland

Chrm. O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:20 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. Knee made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous vote

TOWN FOREST

Trails

Mr. Howland updated the Members on the trail development and maintenance activity in the Oak Ridge Town Forest. He said in Glen Oakes a Link Parking sign has been installed at Link and Forest, and a Forest Bypass trail between Forest and Homestead has been signed and blazed. In Oak Ridge the following has been done:

- Town Forest Ordinance and Partner signs put in the Oak Ridge south kiosk.
- Town Forest Ordinance and Partner signs installed in the Oak Ridge north parking lot.
- Posts installed in Oak Ridge north; 5 Town Forest Ordinance signs and 5 directional arrows.
- All trail intersections in the new network have sign posts with arrows indicating official trails.

Some of the arrows also indicate the shortest route to Tavern Road. Each post has a unique number which can be placed on the trail map. (so as long as you follow the arrows you will eventually get back to Tavern Road.

Mr. Howland suggested it would be possible to add signage indicating which way to go on Tavern Road to get to the Oak Ridge North parking lot.

Mr. Howland reported that money spent to date for the above signage work is \$93.11 and he submitted copies of the sales slips for reimbursement.

Mr. Howland showed some pictures of signs already in place and related that Jack Downing had painted them. The Members were impressed and appreciative of Mr. Downing for volunteering his time and skills and agreed that a thank-you card be sent to him.

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Mr. Howland said that short-term plans (estimated cost of \$10.00) include:

- Finish clearing and blazing new trail sections on oak Ridge North.
- Put Town Forest Ordinance signs on metal posts in Glen Oakes at Barred Owl Trail and power lines and Homestead Extension.

Signs, map, culvert

Mr. Howland discussed the placement of an Oak Ridge Town Forest sign in north parking lot. He felt a good place to put it would result in sign being in Tavern Road right of way (within the class 6 section of the road). Road Agent Mark Pitkin recently told him that Selectmen have jurisdiction where this is class 6 road and there was a discussion relative to obtaining permission from the Selectmen for the sign placement.

Mr. Howland suggested placing signs at appropriate Town road intersections identifying or showing direction to the Town Forests. Examples would be a sign at the intersection of:

- North Road and Tavern Road
- Poplin Drive and Meetinghouse Road
- Rt 107 and Copp Drive
- Andreski Drive and Copp Drive.

It was agreed that Mr. Howland would ask the Selectmen's permission for placing signs at any intersection.

Mr. Howland related that Mbr. deBeer is currently working on updated maps of Oak Ridge.

Mr. Howland wondered if a permit is needed to install a culvert. This prompted a discussion and he agreed to contact DES to describe the wetland that would need a culvert to preserve the trail from further erosion from foot and vehicle traffic and to find out if there are any permits necessary.

There was also a conversation relative to erosion control.

PSNH Environmental Grant Application

Mr. Howland reported that he has redone the PSNH Environmental Grant Application grant application to include the following signs:

- Finish signs in Oak Ridge
- Oak Ridge Kiosk
- Oak Ridge Trail Map – printing
- New signs – End-of Trail (EOT), “NO” signs
- BOG Bridging

Mr. Howland suggested including the cost of 2 identifying signs (one for Glen Oakes and one for Oak Ridge) in the PSNH grant application. The Members thought that was a good idea. The application will be submitted as soon as it is finished.

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FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

Mr. Howland suggested hosting a Fall Foliage Hike, perhaps in the Oak Ridge North area. The Members agreed to hold the event from 10:00 am to 12 noon on Saturday October 22, 2011 beginning at the North parking lot of Oak Ridge.

SNOW SHOE HIKE

Mr. Howland suggested holding a Snow Shoe Hike in the winter. This will be further discussed at a later meeting.

ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer reported on the following ERLAC Meetings.

May 24, 2011:

1. Mark West and Julie LaBranche presented the "Bio Inventory" of Exeter River floodplain wetlands in Danville, Fremont and Sandown.
2. Ted Diers, Director, NH Coastal Program, gave an update of the EPA permit regarding discharges to Great Bay. He said the issue of nitrogen in Great Bay is extremely complex socially, economically and politically. The existing data does not provide how the existing data is connected to a particular river, which is how the EPA regulates the discharge permits, the discharge into each river. The proposed study of the Squamscott will yield information on what is causing the dissolved oxygen impairment in that river. Water clarity and the role it plays in eel grass decline is another issue needing additional research. The Towns involved with WWTPs think the non point source pollution plays a more important role than WWTPs in nitrogen in Great Bay. The EPA does not regulate non-source pollution. Diers stated that Cape Cod communities require de-nitrifying septic systems, which cost twice as much and we that we may need to do that here in "hot spots" in Towns that are blanketed by septic systems. An ERLAC member stated that one problem in Exeter is the combined sewer-storm water overflow flushing water into the Squamscott and no funds to address the problem. Diers stated that a recent 10 year review of the Chesapeake Bay found that protecting 1st and 2nd order streams and upgrading WWTPs are the cheapest solutions to the nitrogen issues. The Chairman of ERLAC stated that ERLAC would not sign-on to a letter to the EPA being written by the Conservation Law Foundation requesting them to accelerate the process as had been requested by the Conservation Law Foundation after the April meeting. No vote was taken and not all were in agreement, however the Chairman's decision reigned. Rachael Rouillard, Executive Director, PREP, spoke about PREP's effort to organize a mediated discussion among the stakeholders on this issue. Those organizations invited to participate are the Great Bay Coalition, made up of the communities affected by the higher standards in the WWTPs permitting process, NH DES, EPA and CLF. They will discuss their concerns with regulating nitrogen loading in Great Bay. Funds for a third party mediator are being provided by the NH Charitable Foundation.
3. There was a discussion about which Towns were interested in applying for 319 grant projects described in the Fluvial Geomorphology Study and what project they thought would be successful for getting potential grant funding.
4. It was reported that the recent Vernal Pool Workshop in Exeter was a huge success.
5. Theresa Walker reminded the group of the upcoming fish ladder tour in Exeter on June 4th in conjunction with NH Fish and Game.

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June 21, 2011

1. There was a discussion with UNH intern Colin Lentz and Zachary Henderson of Woodard & Curran regarding research into local regulations relative to water quality protection. The project will focus on the Exeter/Squamscott River Watershed and will seek to identify the administrative challenges communities face when managing environmental regulations aimed at protecting water resources. Understanding the challenges will help outline the financial and administrative assistance needed to maintain water quality in Great Bay. Colin, is a graduate student in the TIDES program (Training for the Integration of Decisions and Ecosystems Science), will be interviewing personnel in watershed towns and asked ERLAC members to submit the name of the person in Town best qualified to answer questions about managing and implementing regulations. I recommended Meredith since she works in the land use office and has served on all of the land use boards. The questions may vary somewhat from one community to another.
2. The Fish Ladder Tour was a great success. Many people stopped by to learn about the ladder and the fish in the Exeter River that it affects.
3. The annual ERLAC kayak event will take place on August 20 at Chapman's landing. There will be a \$5.00 fee this year that will go to ERLAC to keep the numbers of attendees lower than they have been.
4. ERLAC is planning a celebration of the Squamscott River's incorporation into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. This is an impressive achievement because the Squamscott will be the first tidal river accepted into the Program.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

The Commission received and reviewed the CC P&L statement for January through June, 2011. It was noted that the budget is not reflective of actual spending.

BUDGET – 2012

Town Administrator Heidi Carlson has reminded all departments that their 2012 are due in the Selectmen's office no later than August 15.

Members discussed and agreed to request the following Conservation Commission Budget for 2012.

4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
001 Photographs	\$ 20
002 Postage	\$ 75
004 Copies/Office Supplies	\$ 125
005 Document Purchases	\$ 70
Handbooks and RSA updates	
006 Training & Seminars	\$ 200
Includes workshops available to Commission Members.	
008 Membership Dues	\$ 400
\$250 = NH Association of CC- \$50 = SPNHF	
(new this year: Lamprey River Watershed Association = \$100)	
010 Conservation Improvement	\$ 1
Residual of budget put toward separate conservation fund (for possible future land purchase/preservation)	
020 Exeter River Local Advisory Committee Dues	\$ 150
Dues; Participation in ERLAC activities, support of committee	

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050 CONSERVATION Project	\$ 450
Town Forests:	
A - Town Forest Signs and associated posts and hardware @ \$200	
B – Trail maps and brochures @ \$50	
C - 2 large maps for the Oak Ridge kiosk @ \$200	
Total requested budget	\$ 1,491

An appointment will be made with the Selectmen to present this budget request.

GRANTS

Mbr. deBeer reported that she has received three \$10,000 grants for land acquisition and there are three more still outstanding. She reported that she is thinking of applying to Woodard & Curran, who offer grants for environmental projects as well as other things. The application deadline is August 15, 2011.

Chrm. O'Brien said she talked to Mike Speltz about recommending a grant writer and he suggested contacting Cheryl Killiam of Raymond.

SPECIES INVENTORY

Mbr. Knee reported that he is working on species inventory for Glen Oakes. He noted that some information for the report comes as a result of the recently held Biothon and some from Charlie Moreno's Wildlife Report. This prompted a conversation relative to animal and plant species found in Glen Oakes during the recent Biothon event that could possibly be added to the report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A copy of a June 9, 2011 correspondence to the Selectmen from DES Commissioner Thomas Burack seeking volunteers to serve on the local advisory committee for the Lamprey et.al. Rivers. A copy of this was e-mailed to all members of the Planning Board, ZBA, Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee.
- A June 10, 2011 correspondence from DES as a follow-up to the June 10, 2011 correspondence. No interest to serve on the committee was shown by the Members.

At 9:30 pm Mbr. Knee made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is September 12, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc,
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary