

**Fremont Conservation Commission  
9-12-11 Meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission  
Minutes of September 12, 2011  
Approved October 3, 2011**

Present: Chairman Janice O'Brien, Co-Chairman Bill Knee, Member Pat deBeer, Alt. Leanne Miner, and Alt/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

**MINUTES**

Mbr. Knee made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting as written.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous vote except for Alt. Miner who abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2011 non-public meeting as written.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous vote

**TOWN FOREST**

**Trails**

**Signs, map, culvert**

Chrm. O'Brien conveyed the following information for the record.

In an August 26, 2011 e-mail message Mr. Howland reported that:

- At the August 25, 2011 Selectmen's meeting the Selectmen gave approval for placing signs in the Tavern Road right-of-way.
- The Selectmen were interested, appreciative, and are looking forward to getting trail maps.
- No decisions were made relative to a general Town Forest signage.
- Mr. Howland can contact the State DOT to learn more about any signs that would be on state roads.

In a September 5, 2011 e-mail message Mr. Howland reported that he has erected Town Forest Ordinance signs at the two southerly entrances to Glen Oakes at the power lines. One is at the extension of the Homestead trail on the metal post Jack Karcz had installed previously. The other is located on the unnamed Barred Owl trail. The metal post containing the Town Forest Ordinance sign was donated and painted by Jack Downing.

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Mr. Howland also reported that while they were putting up the post, two young boys came up on dirt bikes. "I informed them they were not allowed on motorized vehicles. They tried to tell me they had permission from their friends at the other end of the trail to which I said their friends had no authority to do so. I told them they were in Fremont, while they thought they were in Brentwood." He added that the Auditor (actually monitor) from the Forest service definitely noted the ATV and dirt bike traffic.

In a September 7, 2011 e-mail message Dennis Howland reported that he contacted DES about the trail drainage issue in Oak Ridge. Eben Lewis from DES visited the area in question with him. In Mr. Lewis's opinion, the areas on either side of the trail are wetlands and nothing we have done to date to experiment with the drainage is a problem. He has no problem at all with us trying to control or channel the water draining across the trail and advised to not create extra maintenance, neaten it up, but basically leave it as it is. As for a box culvert versus a water bar, Mr. Lewis said that "if we were going to do either one, we should get it permitted with a trail maintenance form."

Mr. Howland added that this can be discussed the next time he attends at a Conservation Commission meeting. He added that if time permits, he may "clean up" the experiment a little, but otherwise he will take no action.

### **PSNH Environmental Grant Application**

Chrm. O'Brien reported that the PSNH Environmental Grant Application grant application as updated by Mr. Howland has been submitted.

### **FALL FOLIAGE HIKE**

Chrm. O'Brien reminded the Members that from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday October 22, 2011 the Conservation Commission will be hosting a Fall Foliage Hike in the Oak Ridge North area. The event will begin at the North parking lot of Oak Ridge.

### **ERLAC**

Mbr. deBeer reported she was not at the last ERLAC meeting, but she understands that the topic of a landowner in Fremont who is seeking to extend improvements on his property near the Exeter River was discussed.

The Commission received a Notice of Acceptance of Permit Application Land Resources Management for 46 Tibbetts Road, Map 7 Lot 9. This is the Shoreland Program Permit Application for impacts to jurisdictional shoreland at the subject property.

According to the notice from DES the owner, Michael Dudley, has applied to for a "Shoreland Permit Application" to replace a 721 sf house with a 692 sf house and a new septic system close to the Exeter River. Mrs. Bolduc explained that the owner has met with her in the Land Use Office relative to preparing an application to seek the proper special exceptions and variances from the Fremont Zoning Ordinance. The application has not been submitted so there are no plans or drawings to show the Commission.

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There was a discussion relative to the owner looking to improve the site and the necessary permitting process through NH DES and the Fremont Zoning Ordinance.

Mbr. deBeer made the motion to table the issue until there is more information available.  
Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

### **BUDGET – 2012**

Chrm. O'Brien reported that she presented the Conservation Commission budget recommendation to the Selectmen at their August 18, 2011 meeting.

### **CC BUDGET vs ACTUAL STATEMENT**

The Members received and reviewed the Conservation Commission expenditure statement for January through August 31, 2011.

Mbr. deBeer suggested there should be a fund or a line added to the budget that could be used for enforcement of the Town Forest Ordinance. There was a conversation relative to responsibility of policing the policies of the Town Forest Ordinance and Chrm. O'Brien stated that this is the responsibility of the Police Department. The other Members generally agreed.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

The discussion relative to Town Forest Ordinance enforcement led to a conversation about whether the proceeds from forestry management of the Town Forest go into the Towns general fund or into a special account. RSA 31:110-113 relative to funds was consulted. RSA 31:113 states "*For the purposes of establishing or maintaining a city or town forest, a city or town may raise and appropriate such funds as it deems necessary. The proceeds from said forest shall be placed in a special forest maintenance fund and shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, unless otherwise voted by the legislative body of such city or town.*"

### **TREASURERS REPORTS**

The Members received and reviewed the Conservation Commission account balances as of July 31, 2011. Interest payments was shown in all accounts.

### **GRANTS**

Mbr. deBeer reported that she has received notice of three \$10,000 grants awarded for land acquisition and there are more still outstanding.

Mbr. Knee said the Selectmen were favorably impressed with the \$30,000 in grants that have been awarded so far. Chrm. O'Brien thanked Mbr. deBeer for being so diligent with the grant applications.

### **SPECIES INVENTORY**

Mbr. Knee finished the species inventory for Glen Oakes and it is now on the Conservation Commission page of the Fremont web site.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Received:

- From NH DES: Notice of Wetlands and Non-Site Specific permit issued to Venus Johnson for 42 Bluefish Drive.

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

There was a conversation relative to a proposed land acquisition project and Mbr. deBeer made the motion to recommend to the Selectmen to authorize spending of up to \$135,000 from the Current Use account to help fund the project.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

The Selectmen will be notified of this decision.

Chrm. O'Brien announced that the Public Hearing to discuss a land acquisition and funding is scheduled for 7:30 pm on September 29, 2011.

At 8:25 pm Mbr. Knee made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is October 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc,  
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary