

Fremont Conservation Commission
03-5-12 Meeting Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 5, 2012

Approved May 7, 2012

Present: Chairman Janice O'Brien, Co-Chairman Bill Knee, Member Pat deBeer, 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 February 13, 2012 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote 3-0.

SEACOAST UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Map 6 Lot 020-001

The Commission received and reviewed a copy of a February 17, 2012 correspondence to the State of NH DES from F. B. Lindahl documenting to his concerns that he has "personally observed regarding the artificial turf of Seacoast United Soccer Club fields within 100 feet of the prime wetland of the Piscassic River. The issue is runoff from the artificial turf that is immediately adjacent to the stream and elsewhere on this property. The very small (rubber/synthetic) beads infused within the fabric turf, are washed out during heavy rains. They are visible around the perimeter of the fields." Mr. Lindahl cited the DES Land Resources Management File #2008-02652, 88 Shirkin Road, Epping Map 2 Lot 20.1. Attached to the letter were three photographs showing runoff of rubber material at the site.

Chr. O'Brien said it appears that there is no response from SUSC yet. She said she has not heard anything from Eben Lewis of NH DES, but there is still another month or so for SUSC to address the other issues from the February 2, 2012 DES Letter of Deficiency (60 days from the date of issuance).

- *Submit to DES a wetland restoration plan prepared by a CWS*
- *Submit a plan documenting the trees that were cut in the Prime Wetlands, and a Forest Management Plan for the Prime Wetland, including plantings.*

TOWN FOREST

GLEN OAKES FOREST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the Commission has not received a draft work proposal from Forester Charlie Moreno.

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SMITH LAND ACQUISITION

Map 4 Lots 086, 088 and 089

The Commission received and reviewed:

- A February 28, 2012 correspondence from Town Administrator Heidi Carlson to Richard Smith relative to the property transfer.
- From Mike Speltz; the March 2, 2012 updated project budget for the Smith property addition to the Glen Oakes Town Forest.

Chrm. O'Brien noted that The Smith "Plan of Land" was recorded on November 3, 2011.

The Members discussed whether or not title insurance is needed. This will depend on Town Counsel's recommendation.

OAKRIDGE

Conservation Easement: Mbr. deBeer asked if the Conservation Commission wants to put an easement on the Oakridge Town Forest. She said she was thinking of writing to a couple of the grant funders who rejected funding the Smith project. Chrm. O'Brien said that would depend on how much is left in the Current Use account after paying all the costs of the Smith purchase plus the cost to do a forest and wildlife plan.

Mrs. Bolduc said as a result of her research she could find no evidence of there ever being a Conservation Easement for Oak Ridge. Chrm. O'Brien said there has never been an easement on Oak Ridge, there is a conveyance restriction in the deed. After some conversation, the Members agreed they do want to pursue the Conservation Easement on Oak Ridge.

Mbr. Knee made the motion that the Fremont Conservation Commission pursue a conservation easement on the Oakridge Town Forest, Tax Map 4 Lots 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16.

Mbr. deBeer seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote 3-0.

DUES

SPNHF: The Commission received the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 2012 dues renewal invoice in the amount of \$50.00. Mbr. deBeer made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues and membership line of the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mbr. Knee with unanimous favorable vote 3-0.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Commission received and reviewed the Treasurers report as of January 31, 2011.

LAND ETHIC

Mbr. Knee asked the members if they had a chance to Google and watch Green Fire which is a full length documentary (about 1 hour and 13 minutes long) about conservationist Aldo Leopold's life and legacy of a land ethic. He said that this can be purchased and shown to the public for promoting public awareness of conserving land for public use and "what is a land ethic".

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The Members all said they have viewed the Green Fire documentary movie and they agreed that it would be a good segway for promotion of conservation, conservation awareness and environmental ethics to the general public and in the local schools.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the Conservation Commission purchase the land ethic movie Green Fire package and authorize payment in the amount of \$150 to be taken from the Residual Fund. Mbr. de Beer seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. Knee will order the documentary. The Members agreed to try to schedule a showing of the movie for 7:30 pm on April 20, 2012. Mrs. Bolduc will find out if the Ellis School gym or the safety complex is available for that date. Chm. O'Brien offered to meet with the School Board to discuss the Commission's proposal to show the movie. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

There was a discussion relative to the positions of the Conservation Commission.

Chrm. O'Brien made the motion to nominate and elect Mbr. Knee as Chairman of the Conservation Commission for the coming year.

Mbr. deBeer seconded the nomination. The Members voted unanimously in favor of the nomination except for Mbr. Knee who abstained. Mbr. Knee accepted the position.

Chrm. Knee made the motion to nominate and elect Chrm. O'Brien as Vice-Chairman for the coming year. Mbr. deBeer seconded the nomination. The Members voted unanimously in favor of the nomination except for Mbr. O'Brien who abstained. Mbr. O'Brien accepted the position.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

Mbr. deBeer said she is considering going to either the Saving Special Places conference or the DES Source Water Protection conference and the Members agreed to reimburse her for the registration fees.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no incoming correspondence.

HOUSE BILLS

Update on Bills relative to conservation that have been proposed.

HB 1515 – House status -Inexpedient to Legislature which means “may die in committee”. Status date – 2-11-2012.
Has not gone to Senate.

This bill:

- Changes the tax collection procedures for the current use land use change tax.
- Adds failure to pay property taxes and failure to notify of a qualifying use change to the actions which trigger the land use change tax.
- Requires all municipal land use change tax revenues to be recognized as general fund revenue.

HB 1540 - House status -Inexpedient to Legislature which means “may die in committee”. Status date – 2-15-2012.
Has not gone to Senate.

This bill:

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- Prohibits the State or any of its subdivisions from granting a conservation easement on public land to a nonprofit organization.

HB 1545 - House status -Inexpedient to Legislature which means “may die in committee”. Status date – 2-22-2012.

Has not gone to Senate

This bill:

- Specifies that conservation commissions do not have the power to convey interests in real property that they receive or acquire.
- Limits conservation commission contracts to manage interests in real property to a term of 5 years.

HB 1586 - House status -Inexpedient to Legislature which means “may die in committee”. Status date – 2-22-2012.

Has not gone to Senate

This Bill provides:

- That the selectmen shall hold 2 public hearings at least 10 but not more than 14 days apart on the proposed acquisition or sale
- Upon the written petition of 50 registered voters presented to the selectmen, prior to the selectmen’s vote, according to the provisions of RSA 39:3, the proposed acquisition or sale shall be inserted as an article in the warrant for the town meeting.

At 9:00 pm Mbr. O’Brien made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The next regular meeting is April 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary