

Fremont Conservation Commission
09-10-12 Meeting Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of September 10, 2012
Approved October 1, 2012

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

Chrm. Knee opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. deBeer wanted to clarify some statements from the August 13, 2012 meeting.

1. The Town owns Glen Oakes (not the CC)
2. She meant "Endowment" when she suggested creating a capital reserve fund through the Town Warrant for the Town Forest. It could have an "account line" with \$1.00, however it shows we're thinking for the future.

Mbr. deBeer made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting as clarified. Mbr. O'Brien seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

FELICIA AUDEVICH

At 7:05 pm Felicia Augevich met with the Commission. She said she lives on Copp Drive with her husband and children and is a candidate for NH State Representative for District 10 of the State House of Representatives in Rockingham County which includes only Fremont.

Mrs. Augevich related that Fremont is also part of District 33 with Brentwood and Sandown.

Mrs. Augevich said she wanted to meet with the Conservation Commission to understand what barriers, if any, the Conservation Commission faces legislatively that promote obstacles.

Mbr. O'Brien asked Ms. Augevich if she is familiar with Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Mbr. O'Brien explained that there was a \$25 fee implemented that was to go into a fund to fund LCHIP, but got diverted to go into the General Fund. Mbr. O'Brien asked Mrs. Augevich if she would be interested in working toward strengthen legislation so the fund cannot go into the general fund. Mrs. Augevich said she is not familiar with LCHIP, but she would look into why it got diverted.

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Chrm. Knee said the Conservation Commission would be looking for a strong propellant to stand up to changing House Bills that are meant to take away local control. Currently the Fremont Conservation Commission is allotted 50 % after the first \$10,000 collected from the land use change tax dollars to be added to the Current Use Fund for future land purchase or preservation. HB 1515, which was proposed this year, would 1) change the tax collection procedures for the current use land use change tax; 2) add failure to pay property taxes and failure to notify of a qualifying use change to the actions which trigger the land use change tax; and 3) require all municipal land use change tax revenues to be recognized as general fund revenue.

Chrm. Knee related that other House Bills proposed this year that were of concern to the Commission were HB 1540 and HB 1545. HB 1540 would prohibit the State or any of its subdivisions from granting a conservation easement on public land to a nonprofit organization. HB 1545 specifies that conservation commissions do not have the power to convey interests in real property that they receive or acquire, and limits conservation commission contracts to manage interests in real property to a term of 5 years.

Mbr. deBeer noted that the Conservation Commission is advisory and it feels like these bills look to take authority away.

Mrs. Augevich said she would look into the Conservations concerns and even if she does not get the seat she would still lobby for keeping local conservation control.

Mrs. Augevich thanked the Commission for their time and left the meeting at 7:40 pm. It was agreed that she will meet again with the Commission at their October 1, 2012 meeting.

MICHAEL MORRISON

At 7:30 pm Aquatic Entomologist Michael Morrison met with the Commission and submitted a handout on invasive and noxious plant control (invasive plants in NH (old and new) and how to control them). He stated that Fremont has contracted with his company, Swamp, Inc., for mosquito control. Swamp, Inc. works with State agencies and land trusts and has also contracted with other towns in NH and Maine. Mr. Morrison explained that he applies for State and Federal grants to fund some of the programs and he is proposing to do that for Fremont for mosquito control. He said there are many areas in Fremont under consideration for control. There was a discussion about Spruce Swamp and Mr. Morrison said they would look at the perimeter of the Swamp for controlling both invasive plants and mosquito control, but not the internal part of the Swamp. He explained that herbicides are the only thing that control some of the invasive plants such as the Japanese bamboo.

Mr. Morrison listed some common invasive plants in New Hampshire. He related that Swamp, Inc.'s ecological services program includes mosquito control, tick habitat management, invasive

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plant control, protection of sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitats, wetland delineation, storm water management, and wetland restoration/maintenance.

At 8:00 pm Dennis Howland joined the meeting.

Mr. Morrison said he wants to propose to the Town that he document invasive plants in the field while he is working on mosquito control and he has talked to Town Administrator Heidi Carlson about this. Mbr. O'Brien suggested writing a letter to the Selectmen relating that the Conservation Commission supports the concept of providing ecological services that would include current mosquito control and also encompass the ability to accept funding for identifying and control of invasive plant species. The other Members agreed.

In answer to a question by Mbr. deBeer Mr. Morrison said all of the equipment and machines used in an area with invasive plants are hosed down at the site to prevent transporting invasive plants from site to site. Other plants are dealt with in different ways, but none are allowed to move to a new site.

At 8:10 Mr. Morrison thanked the Commission for their time and left the meeting.

There was some further conversation relative to the systematic steps for getting rid of invasive plants.

FREMONT FALL FESTIVAL

Mrs. Bolduc said that table space has been reserved and a check submitted to the Historical Society for the CC/OSC at the September 22, 2012 Fall Festival event.

Dennis Howland showed the exhibit board he has put together for display at the Fall Festival that included information and pictures about Oak Ridge, Glen Oakes and the Smith land recently acquired. Various handouts were discussed. Mr. Howland and Mbr. deBeer will work on a pamphlet that will include a map of Fremont with the Town Forests located.

Mbr. deBeer reported that for \$30 she can get a 1' x 5' banner at Staples that would say "Fremont Town Forests". The Members agreed that this was a great idea and Chrm. Knee made the motion that the Conservation Commission authorize Mbr. deBeer to order the banner and further authorize that the \$30 payment is to be taken from the residual fund. Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. deBeer reported that NH Fish & Game has agreed to lend her their track kit and their fur kit for use at the festival and she will pick it up the day before the event.

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE and SMITH PROPERTY DEDICATION

The Members discussed the Fall Foliage Hike to be held on Saturday October 13, 2012 beginning at 10:00 am at the entrance of the Glen Oakes Town Forest at the end of Andreski Drive. The

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Smith property dedication will be held at 10:00 am and will be followed by a walk to the Lawrence island at the west end of the Smith property.

Mr. Howland said he would be willing to send out a post card to interested people and there was a discussion about who to send the post cards to ie: abutters to the property, interested parties and/or supporters of the acquisition.

Mr. Howland discussed the routes that would be taken for the hike. He noted that there would be a chance for those who wanted to go back to the starting point when they get to the Loop Trail. Mbr. deBeer will lead the group that wishes to return at that point.

The Members reviewed and agreed with a news release for the Smith property dedication written and submitted by Chrm. Knee. The article will be sent to the Carriage Towne News and the Union Leader.

At 9:05 Mr. Karcz left the meeting.

GLEN OAKES FOREST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 2 Lot 156-2-1

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the signed work agreement for a forestry operation in the Glen Oakes Town Forest submitted by Forester Charlie Moreno was sent to him on August 15, 2012.

PSNH GRANT

Dennis Howland reported that he was informed by Environmental Records Technician Pat Baxa that the Northeast Utilities and NStar have merged. Because of the ongoing integration of these two companies, the Environmental Community Grant Program (PSNH) has been put on hold indefinitely. Ms. Baxa related that the application he submitted for the PSNH Grant will be stored and applicants will be notified when a decision is made about the program's status.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Members received an August 10, 2012 correspondence from OSC Chairman Howland reporting that the Open Space Committee has agreed with the following:

1. Combine the Fall Foliage Hike with the Smith dedication hike.
2. CC/OSC should have space at Fremont Fall Festival to promote the Town Forests and our Open Space, and any upcoming events.
3. Submit PSNH grant application proposal for projects in the Town Forests.

SEACOAST UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Map 6 Lot 020-001

There was nothing new to report relative to the SUSC issue.

DES/SPRINGER

The commission has received a copy of an August 28, 2012 notice of the NH DES's "Approved Prime Wetland Waiver & Complete Forestry Notification" for Carsten Springer approving his

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waiver request to construct and 8 foot span bridge for timber harvesting in the forested portion of the town of Fremont prime wetland #43 and its buffer on his property located at Map 1 Lot 62 in Fremont.

CC EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Board reviewed the expenditure report for the Conservation Commission budget from January 1 through August 31, 2012. There were questions relative to the minus balances in the photographs line and the conservation improvements line of the budget. Mrs. Bolduc will look into spending of these lines and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no incoming correspondence received.

At 9:20 pm Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Chrm. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is October 1, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary