

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**10-01-12 Meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of October 1, 2012**  
Approved November 5 2012

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

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

**MINUTES**

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting as written.

Chrm. Knee seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

**FALL FOLIAGE HIKE and SMITH PROPERTY DEDICATION**

The Members discussed the Fall Foliage Hike to be held on Saturday October 13, 2012 starting at the entrance of the Glen Oakes Town Forest at the end of Andreski Drive. The event will begin at 10:00 am with the Smith property dedication and will be followed by a walk to the Lawrence island at the west end of the Smith property. Mr. Howland reviewed the route of the hike for the Members that he has tentatively mapped out. Chrm. Knee related that Mike Speltz is not going to be able to do the preview he had planned, but he will be there the day of the hike.

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

There was a conversation relative to the OSC, whether it was ever formally formed and if it was meant to be a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Mbr. O'Brien said she remembers that in late 2003 the Open Space Committee was formed by the Selectmen, but she does not know if it was formally formed. The purpose of the OSC was to evaluate properties for open space, but there have been no properties to evaluate for the last couple of years and the OSC has morphed into sort of a trails committee for the Town Forests. Mbr. O'Brien suggested that a different mission statement could be created to include the Town Forest trails.

Mbr. deBeer said she thinks the Selectmen's minutes should be looked into to find if the OSC was ever formally formed. Mbr. deBeer will research this and report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

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### **FELICIA AUDEVICH**

At 7:30 pm Felicia Augevich met with the Commission to report the status of House Bills 1515, 1540 and 1545 that the Members had asked about at the last meeting. Mrs. Augevich said she looked into the bills and none of them made it into committee. She added that there have been no conservation bills filed for 2013 and if she understands correctly the time limit has closed to file new bills for 2013.

Mrs. Augevich said she will look into why the \$25 fee implemented that was to go into a fund to fund the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program LCHIP got diverted to go into the General Fund and try to find out how can it be changed back to the original intent.

The Members thanked Mrs. Augevich for her time and research and she left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

### **FREMONT FALL FESTIVAL**

It was noted that the Conservation Commission/Open Space Committee table at the Fall Festival was a huge hit thanks to the efforts of Bill Knee, Pat deBeer, Leanne Miner, Janice O'Brien and Dennis Howland. Although foot traffic overall was less than some might have liked, our booth had a very good "hit rate" for people interested in what we had.

### **SEACOAST UNITED SOCCER CLUB**

Map 6 Lot 020-001

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

### **CC EXPENDITURE REPORT**

At the last meeting there were questions relative to the minus balances in the photographs line and the conservation improvements line of the budget. Mrs. Bolduc checked with Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and the balances have been corrected.

### **2013 CC BUDGET**

The Members discussed the 2013 Conservation Commission Budget that included the Selectmen's recommendations. The Selectmen have recommended reducing the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) dues line from \$150 to \$1.

The Members voiced much disappointment with this recommendation and agreed that because the Selectmen are not recommending the appropriation of \$150 for this Town's continued membership in ERLAC, representation by this Town will terminate at the end of 2012. The interests of the Town of Fremont will no longer be represented by ERLAC (now Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC)).

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### TOWN FOREST AND SMITH STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The Conservation Commission Members reviewed the Smith Stewardship plan draft submitted by the NH Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and agreed to the following amendments to the draft:

- Page 1 par 2 line 5 the word “Mr.” be removed
- Page 2 under #4 Finance resources line 3 , the words “conservation fund” be replaced by *“the purchase of land or other property interests therein to protect the Town’s rural character and natural resources by conserving land”*

Mbr. O’Brien made the motion to approve the Stewardship plan as amended by the Conservation Commission.

Motion seconded by Chrm. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. O’Brien will let Mr. Speltz know the Stewardship plan for the Smith addition to the Fremont Glen Oakes Town Forest has been approved with amendments.

The Members discussed NH RSA 31:113, the Town Forest Statute.

**31:113 Appropriations Authorized.** – *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.*

The Members agreed that the Town has adopted the State Statutes relevant to the creation of the Town Forests on behalf of its citizens. In order to create these Town Forests the Town has also entered into stewardship commitments by accepting grant monies from multiple agencies. By accepting these grants the Town has entered into agreements to maintain the health of the Town Forest and the condition of improvements such as trails and signage, providing for necessary monitoring, educating or informing those using and maintaining the Forests about the legal obligation to protect and preserve it, maintaining liability insurance, and securing sufficient levels of financial resources to carry out all such necessary actions. It is the opinion of this Commission that the most appropriate source of these financial resources is from the proceeds of forest maintenance. In addition it is the opinion of this Commission that said funds should be allowed to accumulate from year to year in order to provide resources for these necessary actions. Further, it is the opinion of this Commission that the Town Forests be managed by the Conservation Commission as was originally intended by the then Board of Selectmen when the Town Forests were adopted by the Town of Fremont and pursuant NH RSA 31:113 the proceeds from the Town Forests shall be placed in a special forest maintenance fund and shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year.

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**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

The Board resumed their conversation relative to the original function of the Open Space Commission which was to evaluate properties for recommendation to the Conservation Commission for open space; and whether it was formally formed by the Selectmen. Mbr. O'Brien agreed to contact former CC Chairman John Whiteside and former Selectman Gene Cordes for their recollection of the organization of the OSC.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no incoming correspondence received.

At 9:15 pm Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn.  
Motion seconded by Chrm. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is November 5, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary