

Fremont Conservation Commission
02-04-13 Meeting Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of
February 4, 2013
Approved March 4, 2013

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

Chrm. Knee opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
Alt. Miner joined the meeting at 7:40 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting as written.
Mbr. deBeer seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

TOWN FOREST

The Commission received a January 19, 2013 e-mail message from Dennis Howland relative to damage to post #8 and "Tavern Road" sign in Oak Ridge North. Included was a printout of pictures showing the damage.

SPNHF

The Commission received SPNHF invoice #4324 in the amount of \$2,000 for "stewardship endowment contribution, Smith addition to the Fremont Town Forest Easement".

After some discussion Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to remit the amount of \$2,000 to SPNHF to be taken out of the Current Use Fund.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The Commission received the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 2013 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. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Fremont Conservation Commission 02-04-13 Meeting Minutes

WORKING PLAN

- Set up a monitoring scheduled for the Town owned conservation easements. The first task is to compile a list of land with conservation easements. The second task would be to get copies of each easement.
Mbr. O'Brien said she is still working on getting the list of easements.
- Review the obligations for grants already awarded including.
 1. Land & Water Conservation Fund (set up for the acquisition of Oak Ridge)
 2. Moose Plate, Recreational Trails Program, PREP Transaction Grant
 3. Smith property: Davis, Fields Pond, Cricket and Wharton, Moose Plate and LCHIP.
- Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan - Review for updates.
- Oak Ridge Management Plan - Review for updates.
- Natural Resource Inventory – - Review for recommendations for updates of information and maps.
- Earth Day event (s) for the current year.
- Biothon – discuss a possible event for the current year.
- Reorganization of the Conservation Commission.
- Budget for the following year.
- Compiled of all of the grants that have been awarded to the Town and create a checklist of the requirements of each grant that can be reviewed annually. Any future grant can be added to the compilation.

GREAT BAY

Mbr. deBeer said that Steve Miller of Great Bay Discovery Center has offered to give a talk to any Board or Commission relative to nitrogen of the Lamprey going into Great Bay. She said DES has done some studies in Great Bay and UNH has done some studies on the Lamprey and found that 30% of the nitrogen is coming from non-point sources, 30% from natural biological process and 30% from the sewer treatment plants.

STRATHAM ACQUISITIONS, LLC/ BANK OF NEW ENGLAND

Map 3 Lot 056

The Commission received a comment sheet and corresponding plan from the Planning Board relative to an application for a Conditional Use Permit for a possible fourteen lot open space development of Map 3 Lot 056 (off Spaulding Road). This was a modification of the plan previously submitted for the Design Review of the same subdivision request that the Commission reviewed on December 3, 2012.

Mrs. Bolduc explained that the application is required to be filed with the Town of Fremont's Conservation Commission for review and comment. She further explained that the purpose of this meeting is for the Planning Board to determine the merits of the OSPD subdivision and grant or deny a Conditional Use permit to the applicant. The Planning Board must find that the proposed OSPD complies with the stated purposes and standards of the OSPD Ordinance and is

Fremont Conservation Commission 02-04-13 Meeting Minutes

superior in design to a conventional subdivision with regard to protection of natural features and scenic resources of the site.

After a review of the plan and with the authorization of the Members, Chrm. Knee submitted the comment sheet with the following comments.

In addition to the previous comments concerning the proposed development the Conservation Commission is in strong support of the existing hard pack road being gated and used for pedestrian traffic.

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY

Present: Dennis Howland, Jack Karcz, Jack Downing, Matthew Thomas, Sam & Betty Harris.

At 7:25 the Members of the Open Space Advisory joined the meeting. Mr. Howland had previously presented a draft of the proposed update to the Open Space Mission Statement. It was noted that the only real change is the additional responsibility to assist with Town Forest trail maintenance and development. Chrm. Knee said he is thankful for all the work that has been done in the Town Forests. He noted that the proposed amended Mission Statement is kept with the spirit with what the Open Space Advisory was formed for. Chrm. Knee, Mbr. O'Brien and Mbr. deBeer agreed that the Mission Statement is good the way it is worded, and they approve it as amended. It will be put on the Open Space page of the Fremont website.

MISSION STATEMENT Open Space Advisory Group Fremont, New Hampshire

MANDATE

To advise the Fremont Conservation Commission on the best ways to preserve and utilize open space in Fremont.

MISSION

To maintain the rural character of the Town while balancing the financial and environmental wishes of the townspeople, preserving the character of our community, protecting our water supply, and maintaining the existing wildlife habitat.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Provide information to the residents of Fremont on the benefits of preserving open space.*
- 2. Identify and prioritize open space in Fremont for possible preservation, and recommend purchase of desirable parcels according to the priority list as they become available.*
- 3. Assist the Fremont Conservation Commission (FCC) in promoting the existing Town Forest assets.*
- 4. Under the authority and direction of the FCC, assist in the maintenance of the existing Town Forest infrastructure and recommend opportunities for improvements and further development.*
- 5. Act as an advisor for landowners who are considering maintaining their land as open space. Work with landowners who wish to transfer or sell the development rights for their land in order to preserve open space.*

Fremont Conservation Commission 02-04-13 Meeting Minutes

Rating properties: Mr. Howland had with him the map that was part of the RPC map of the Open Space Plan. Mbr. O'Brien said in addition to the NRI maps used for rating properties the Wildlife Action Plan maps as well as the RPC Open Space plan map should also be looked at. Mbr. O'Brien offered that if the maps are tools to use in evaluating properties for Open Space.

The process of rating properties was discussed. Mbr. O'Brien explained that there was a process that the Conservation Commission went through to be able to evaluate properties for open space. She said the concern is if the forms are altered it would become problematic because they were showed to the voters several different times as the process that was to be used for rating properties. Chrm. Knee said changes should only be made by the voters. It was agreed to keep the original evaluation sheet and use the RPC maps and/or other maps as informational. It was a consensus of the Commission Members that the current process and criteria will remain in effect. The results of the Rockingham County Open Space exercise completed a few years ago will be used as a resource and to supplement the existing criteria.

Mr. Howland recommended that the Conservation Commission consider adding a line item in the Conservation Commission budget for trail maintenance. Mbr. O'Brien suggested that some of the money generated from logging in the Town Forest to start a "trails fund". The issue will be considered when revenue begins to be received.

Forestry in the Town Forest: Mr. Howland asked what was going to happen with the forestry in the Glen Oakes Town Forest. Chrm. Knee said the Conservation Commission is waiting for Forester Charlie Moreno to put the operation out for bid and get it started. There was a conversation relative to the cutting process and trail maintenance.

Trail development in Smith: Mr. Howland asked if the Conservation Commission is thinking about starting to work on trail development in the newly purchased Smith property. Mbr. O'Brien said the Forest Management Plan should be done before adding trails because we need to know what habitat is out there. Mr. Karcz said Moreno may want to do some forestry in Smith and the logging may result in trails. Chrm. Knee said there was not a lot of planning of trail development at this point.

Mbr. O'Brien reported that the habitat is there for New England cottontail rabbits – an endangered species – and if they are there it may make us eligible for some (federal) grants.

The possibility of holding a "Snow Shoe Hike" was discussed. Mr. Howland suggested it could be held in Oak Ridge by way of the rail trail behind the Library. He also suggested it be done on short term, with notice via word of mouth.

The Open Space group left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Fremont Conservation Commission 02-04-13 Meeting Minutes

EVENTS

Mbr. O'Brien suggested the Conservation Commission host a "Bird Event". She said children could make simple birdhouses, possibly to have them put their name on their creation and put it up in designated areas and keep a log, or monitor, their bird houses.

There was a conversation relative to other kinds of events to host.

- Birds & bats
- Edible plants
- Wildlife cover
- Sustainable agriculture

Chrm. Knee suggested contacting Cindy McRae, thinking of her offer of some years ago, to come and talk with the Commission relative to some suggestions and ideas for some public events. The other Members agreed and Mrs. McRae will be contacted.

Mbr. deBeer reported that PREP's State of the Estuary Report is coming to the Brentwood Recreation Center from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on February 25, 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no incoming correspondence.

At 9:10 pm Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is March 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary