

Fremont Conservation Commission
04-01-13 Meeting Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission

Minutes of

April 1, 2013

Approved June 3, 2013

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

Chrm. Knee opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Alternate Miner joined the meeting at 7:25 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting as written.

Mbr. deBeer seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

BEEDE SPAULDING, LLC

(formerly Stratham Acquisitions)

Map 3 Lot 056

Present: Owner Frank Catapano and Christian Smith, PE with Beals Associates.

The Commission received a comment sheet and corresponding plan from the Planning Board relative to an application for a 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 that the Commission reviewed on December 3, 2012 and the Conditional Use Permit that the Commission reviewed February 4, 2013. Mrs. Bolduc explained that the plan is required to be filed with the Town of Fremont's Conservation Commission for review and comment.

Mr. Smith showed:

- The yield plan of the property that was used for the Planning Board.
- Area on that plan of a lot line adjustment has recently taken place that conveyed 5.34 acres from Map 3 Lot 56 to Map 3 Lot 57.
- The design plan that shows the 14-lot open space subdivision.

Mr. Smith said the developer is not taking any density bonus. He also said the project has no impact on wetlands or wetland buffer.

Fremont Conservation Commission 04-01-13 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Smith noted on the plan that the 75' well radius is contained within each lot. He explained that the Planning Board has agreed to waive their 100' well radii requirement in favor of the 75' State requirements.

The Conservation Easement was discussed. Mr. Smith advised that the 52.97 – acres of land designated for open space will be deeded to the Town of Fremont for a Conservation Easement. Mr. Knee suggested, and Mr. Catapano agreed, that Mr. Catapano's attorney should deal directly with the Town's attorney to draft the Open Space Conservation Easement and the Commission will review it when it is finished.

In answer to questions by the Commission relative to the access way to the Conservation land Mr. Smith and Mr. Catapano offered the following:

- There will be a 12' wide crushed stone walkway/path from the cul-de-sac off Spaulding Road through to Beede Hill Road. This is not for motor vehicles.
- The path is already graveled.
- The path will be for public access, there will be 3 parking areas off the new cul-de-sac and 2 or 3 more off Beede Hill Road.
- There will be gates and identification in the form of signs at each end of the path.

Mrs. Bolduc offered the following excerpt from the December 19, 2012 Planning Board meeting: *Mr. Hunter stated that he spoke with the other Selectmen and they are on board with the Town taking ownership of the open space for this project. It was noted that the Town would take ownership only with the conservation easement provided by the owner.*

The Members all agreed that they like the layout of the subdivision plans. Mbr. O'Brien said she has seen other projects Mr. Catapano has done and they are very nicely done. It was noted that the Commissions previous concerns that; 1) No land alteration or filling of wetlands and its buffer; 2) the existing hard pack road not be paved, sanded or salted; and 3) the existing hard pack road being gated and used for pedestrian traffic have been met.

The Members authorized Chrm. Knee to submit positive comments on the comment sheet.

OPEN SPACE

Mr. Howland said the next Open Space meeting is in May and if there is a project the Conservation Commission wants them to do let them know, otherwise they will do their regular trail maintenance.

Mr. Howland showed 2 trail signs for Tavern Road off posts 7 & 8 that had been damaged. He found evidence of large vehicles in the area by the Cordes driveway. Mr. Cordes told him he does not allow large vehicles to go through the property and there is a red no trespassing sign by Cordes driveway.

Fremont Conservation Commission 04-01-13 Meeting Minutes

TOWN FOREST

Oak Ridge:

The Members read a March 19, 2013 e-mail message from Town Administrator Heidi Carlson stating that last week Joseph (Brody) Bolduc, Jr. spoke with her to ask permission to remove some blown over trees on Town property identified as parcel 04-010 on the tax maps. This is directly behind Mr. Bolduc's parcel (03-058). He indicated to her that some of the walking trails are impeded by blown down and blown over trees, which are a potential liability for people riding (horseback) or walking on the trails. He said he would do the work for the cordwood he may get from cutting them down and he indicated he was fully insured for all of his logging equipment.

The Commission also read an excerpt from the March 21, 2013 Selectmen's meeting regarding Mr. Bolduc's offer which stated "the Selectmen were okay with this as long as the Conservation Commission approves also." It was noted that this lot is part of the Oak Ridge Town Forest.

Mr. Howland said he thinks he knows the area and he believes there are 3 trees near sign post 8 which is about 200' from the edge of the Bolduc property that need to be cleaned up. Mr. Knee said he would want to do a site visit to see what trees need to be taken out, the area they are in, and what equipment would be used to do the work. Mr. Howland offered to go with him.

The Members agreed with Mr. Knee that there is not enough information to make a decision. No date has been set for a site visit pending getting in touch with Mr. Bolduc for his availability.

Mr. Howland left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

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.
Prospective Oak Ridge Easement: 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.
Mrs. Bolduc has sent a letter to Forester Charlie Moreno relative to the status of the management plan for Glen Oakes. He responded via phone that he would mark the area to be cut and would probably be ready to put it out to bid by late April for a summer (July – October) timber harvest.
- Oak Ridge Management Plan - Review for updates.

Fremont Conservation Commission 04-01-13 Meeting Minutes

- 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.

Alt. Miner said she has reviewed the Moose Plate grant and will also review the other grants.

EVENTS

Retired educator Cynthia McRae and Horticulturalist Danielle McRae came in tonight at the Commission's request to discuss ideas for some events that could be held that may serve to get children and adults involved in conservation, ecology of the area and open space. Chrm. Knee explained that the Commission has held various walks and hosted a viewing of the Leopold Greenfire documentary. He said the Leopold people have found that ownership in the land has come from "doing" and getting involved in the land.

Mbr. O'Brien said an example of an event could be a duck-box day rather than a simple walk. Mbr. deBeer suggested that someone from the Coverts program might be willing to do a talk on bats. Audubon was mentioned and Mbr. O'Brien said they do charge a fee. She saw a live bird's presentation the Audubon Society hosted that she thought was great.

Mrs. McRae asked if the events could be part of the 250th Town Anniversary and the Members agreed that would be a good idea. There was also a conversation relative to doing something for the Fall Festival.

Mbr. O'Brien asked the McRae's if it was possible for them to help with an ongoing type of plan, not necessarily a single event. It was noted that an event could be for all ages and for family-type programs.

There was a discussion about what the school does for conservation events and Mbr. deBeer offered resource contacts that could be helpful. The Members and Mrs. McRae came up with some additional resources to contact for events.

Event suggestions that the group discussed were:

- A butterfly garden
- School program that would involve growing plants.
- A presentation on sustainable agriculture.

Fremont Conservation Commission

04-01-13 Meeting Minutes

Previous event suggestions included:

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

Mbr. O'Brien said it would be nice if the Commission could host an event at least twice a year. The Members agreed.

Mbr. deBeer said there is a piece of the Town Forest that has a piece of dry land that would be good for a community garden. This suggestion was discussed.

Mrs. McRae said she would think about some events that would be appropriate for the different seasons and age groups.

At 8:40 the Members thanked the McRae's for their willingness to help in brainstorming for projects and events and they left the meeting.

VISION CHAPTER OF THE MASTER PLAN

Mrs. Bolduc previously e-mailed to the Members a draft of the revision to Vision Chapter of the Master Plan that the Planning Board is doing. The Planning Board has requested that the Conservation Commission Members review it and make any pertinent recommendations. The information the Commission added for the 2006 update has been removed as it was outdated.

Mrs. Bolduc will send the Commission's recommendations from the last update to the Members so they can further discuss the revision at the next meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Members received and reviewed the Conservation Commission Treasurers Reports as of February 28, 2013. The new line previously entitled "Anderson" with \$1,000 was changed to Oak Ridge and Mrs. Bolduc explained that it is for the Roy Foundation grant.

BUDGET REPORT

The Commission received and reviewed the CC budget report from January 1 – February 28, 2013.

Mbr. deBeer signed up for the NH DES Source Water workshop and she would like to be reimbursed for the \$50.00 registration.

Mbr. O'Brien motioned to reimburse deBeer \$50.00 from the "Trainings & Conference" line of the current Conservation Commission budget.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote except for Mbr. deBeer who abstained.

Fremont Conservation Commission
04-01-13 Meeting Minutes

CORRESPONDENCE:

Received:

- Rockingham County Conservation District annual Report.
- Notice of the May 1, 2013 DES Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Conference to be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord.

At 9:20 pm Mbr. deBeer made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is May 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary