



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of
January 6, 2014**

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

Chrm. Knee opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

On March 15, 2010 Chrm. Karcz designated Alternate Leanne Miner to fill the vacancy on the Conservation Commission until such time as the Selectmen have appointed someone to fill that vacancy (allowed by NH RSA 673:12, III). That appointment remains in effect.

Chrm. Knee appointed Alt. Bolduc as a voting Member in Mbr. deBeer's place for tonight's meeting.

MINUTES

Mbr. Bolduc made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting as written. Chrm. Knee seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote except for Mbr. O'Brien who abstained.

POINT OF ORDER: Mbr. deBeer and Alt. Miner joined the meeting at 7:05 pm so Alt. Bolduc stepped down as a voting member.

DONATION

The Conservation Commission received a donation as bequested from the will of Ariela Mahoney (Aja) in the amount of \$10,000 for its "general and unrestricted use".

Chrm. Knee reported that he contacted Nik Coates at NHACC as to where to best put the money. After some discussion, Chrm. Knee made the motion to create a separate fund to be called the Ariela Mahoney Fund for the \$10,000 donation.

Mbr. O'Brien seconded the motion. After some conversation the vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Chrm. Knee made the motion to accept the \$10,000 donation bequested from the will of Ariela Mahoney subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Chrm. Knee said that when the money is used the donor will be publicly recognized.

The Commission also received a release agreement for the donation. With the agreement of the Commission Mr. Knee signed the agreement.

TOWN FOREST

- Smith land acquisition

The Fremont Conservation Commission has received the check in the amount of \$15,000 from the State of New Hampshire representing a grant awarded through the Moose Plate Grant for the Smith land acquisition project. This was deposited in the CC account and a thank you note has been sent.

- Forest Management

In a December 26, 2013 e-mail message Town Administrator Heidi Carlson reported that Fred LeClair and Forester Charlie Moreno have confirmed that the Town Forest harvest operation is complete. This includes the Town's harvest, and Mr. LeClair's traverse to get to the Ladd property, parcel 04-087. SPNHF has been notified.

Mrs. Bolduc reported that she spoke with Mr. Moreno who said he is working up a spreadsheet with all of the information relative to the timber harvest which he will submit soon.

- Glen Oakes Trails

In a December 17, 2013 e-mail message Dennis Howland said he snow-shoed out to Glen Oakes and found Link Trail all plowed out as well as the Island Road, snow mobiles had packed down Forest Loop and it looked great. There was some evidence where there are fewer trees and some open spaces, but that Glen Oakes still looks a lot like Glen Oakes! A few trail segments may need to be re-blazed since they are now crisscrossed by logging paths and he suggested that a segment of the trail could even be re-routed (this would make maps less accurate). He heard the logging activity on the Ladd lot and suggested that when the loggers are done with Ladd, maybe they could be asked to roll the big rock back into the middle of Link Trail.

Chrm. Knee said during his visit to the site he found the LeClairs had made some attempt to not damage the Link Trail, but crossed it several times with equipment, enough so that it will need some minor repair and additional arrow signage.

- Gate

At the last meeting there was a discussion relative to what to do about the access to Glen Oakes by the Kiosk when the logging operation is finished. A gate was suggested as one option.

Chrm. Knee said the gate was also brought up at the subsequent Selectmen's meeting. He said that in place at the moment are two 4' logs with a short opening between the logs. He talked with Fences Unlimited for prices for fences. Alt. Miner said she checked out the Hall Road gate which consists of a couple of 2'x2'x3' concrete blocks with shackles, pipe and chain (with lock) and reflective tape for liability. Kingston Reddy Mix has them at \$55 each plus chains @ \$78 per 20' of

chain plus cost of reflective tape. There is a fee of \$55 to load and \$350 for delivery so the total cost would be about \$700 including loading and delivery.

The Members agreed to talk with the Fire and Police Departments to see what kind of lock they would prefer or if they had any other suggestions.

- Permission to use access through Town Forest

The Commission received a copy of a December 6, 2013 letter from Heidi Carlson to Fred LeClair relative to permission to use a roadway within the Town Forest to remove wood from the Ladd Property (Map 4 Lot 087).

SEACOAST UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Map 6 Lot 020-001

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the amendment to the SUSC Restriction Deed has been finished and recorded.

Chrm. Knee reported that he attended the recent site walk that was held at SUSC to view the recent plantings that were required by the Planning Board. Chris Albert (with Jones & Beach representing SUSC) walked the group through what has been done. Mrs. Bolduc added that Jack Karcz issued a statement to the Planning Board that the group verified the required plantings had been completed and he recommended that the newly planted trees be checked in the spring and replanted if necessary.

PSNH

The Commission received a December 12, 2013 correspondence from Sherrie Trefry of GZA, Environmental, Inc. representing PSNH for a thermal uprate project stating that PSNH is going to apply for a Special Exception from Article IX Section H of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as required for wetland and wetland buffer impacts relative to the project that she reviewed with the Commission at the November 20, 2013 CC meeting.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the Commission draft the letter of referral as requested. Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

The Commission received from the ZBA a notice of a January 28, 2013 Public Hearing and a comment sheet relative to the PSNH request for the above stated Special Exception to allow wetland and wetland buffer impacts for a thermal uprate project and replace four (4) pole structures with taller structures within the existing Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) utility right of way corridor in Fremont, New Hampshire. The proposed project would impact properties located at Map 2 Lots 22-38, 70, 156-1-23-1, 156-2, and 156-2-3.

It was agreed that Chrm. Knee issue a written statement on the comment sheet stating that the Commission has no objection to the proposed PSNH uprate project and granting of the Special Exception.

RICHARD HEWETT/LISA DARLING

29 Scribner Road

Map 2 Lot 1-2

The Commission received from the ZBA a notice of a December 17, 2013 Public Hearing and a comment sheet for Richard Hewett and Lisa Darling who are seeking a Variance from the terms of Article IX Section F as set forth in the Town of Fremont Zoning Ordinance to allow the construction of a 20' x 44' garage building within 100' of a wetland. The plan showed the proposed building to be approximately 60' from the edge of wetland so it would encroach 40' into the wetland buffer. This Public Hearing was continued to January 28, 2014.

The Members reviewed the plan submitted. Following some discussion and with the unanimous agreement of the Members, Chrm. Knee issued written statement on the comment sheet that the "Conservation Commission is firmly opposed to allowing a Variance from the terms of Article IX Section F. The Commission feels that; 1) More up-to-date information delineating the wetland is needed to make a decision; and 2) There are other options on the property to locate the garage thereby not impacting the wetland at all."

LUCT FUND

The Commission received a December 26, 2013 correspondence from Town Administrator Heidi Carlson reporting that the total amount of funds remitted to the CC LUCT fund from fiscal year 2013 is \$17,714.25 and she has forwarded a check in this amount to Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar for deposit into the CC LUCT funds account. This sum represents the formula of 50% over the first \$10,000 collected. She included information from the Tax collector for amounts collected:

Total land use change taxes collected in 2013 - \$45,428.50

Less revenues over \$10,000 = \$35,428.50 x 50%

For deposit to the LUCT fund = \$17,714.25

It was noted that this was a significant increase over the \$10,010.67 of last year.

RESIDUAL FUNDS

The Commission received a December 26, 2013 correspondence from Town Administrator Heidi Carlson reporting that the sum of \$556.26, which represents the remainder of the 2013 Conservation Commission appropriated funds, has been forwarded to Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar for deposit into the CC Budget Residual Fund account.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

The easements include:

3615/702	Conservation Easement Cornerstone Estates/Dakota Realty Trust
	1-35-8, 1-35-9 and p/o 1-35 D-28735
3972/1691	Conservation Easement Tuck Woods
	6-64-21, 6-64-22 and 6-64-23 D-30397
4247/1418	Conservation Easement Tuck Woods

4342/1206	OS, OS2, OS3 Conservation Restriction Deed Not to Further Subdivide Spruce Hill Map 6 Lot 50	D-31333 D-31622
4408/1234	Conservation Restriction Deed Seacoast United Soccer Club p/o 20-1	D-31731
4435/1986	Conservation Easement Fremont Pizzeria p/o Tax Map 3 Lot 120	D-31624
4890/1139	Conservation Easement Scribner Estates Easement 13	D-31121

Chrm. Knee made the motion to table discussion on easement monitoring for this meeting. Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

BIRD WATCHING PRESENTATION

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the Commission received from Eric Masterson advertising that he is taking his Birdwatching presentation on the road. (this is not a bird watch, but a presentation) She contacted Mr. Masterson who said he would recommend holding this program in the spring, when folks start to think about birdwatching and other warm weather activities. He charges \$100 plus mileage, which would be an additional \$75, so \$175 total. Mbr. O'Brien said she would like to look further into this and will get more information.

Mbr. deBeer reported that Brentwood resident Deb Flagg has installed a wildlife camera on the Kelleher property and has taken pictures of a bobcat, coyote, moose, beaver and other wildlife that Mbr. deBeer has been putting on the CC Facebook page.

OAK RIDGE GRANT

Mbr. deBeer reported that she has been reviewing the Oak Ridge Land & Water Conservation Grant to clarify the requirements of the grant.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Commission received:

- Copy of a December 5, 2013 "Letter of Compliance for Letter of Deficiency" from Eben Lewis/DES to Alfred Meuse, 32 Beede Hill Road, Map 3 Lot 52, stating that as a result of a recent inspection it was determined that the deficiencies noted on February 15, 2007 have been corrected and DES has closed their enforcement file regarding the property at this time.
- Copy of a December 6, 2013 from Eben Lewis/DES to Emma Rankin, 522 Beede Hill Road, Map 6 Lot 001, stating that as a result of a recent inspection it was determined that the deficiencies noted on March 20, 2010 have been corrected and DES has closed their enforcement file regarding the property at this time.

WORKING PLAN

The following is a working plan with some results in *italics*.

- Set up a monitoring scheduled for the Town owned Conservation Easements.

(As the holder of an easement, the Town is obligated to monitor each easement once per year.)

Compile a list of land with conservation easements. *This is done.*

- Get copies of each easement.
- Generate a checklist for each easement.
- Prospective Oak Ridge Easement: *This is done.*
- 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, PREP.
- Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan - Review for updates.
- Oak Ridge Management Plan - Review for updates.
Mbr. de Beer said this is in the NRI of the Master Plan.
- 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.

EVENTS

Previous event suggestions included:

- Birds & bats
- Edible plants
- Wildlife cover
- Sustainable agriculture
- A butterfly garden
- School program that would involve growing plants.
- A presentation on sustainable agriculture.
- Community garden

At 8:25 pm Chrm. Knee made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

Fremont Conservation Commission – 01-06-14 Meeting Minutes
Approved February 3, 2014

Next scheduled meeting: February 3, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary

CC action item timeline.

January – Review obligations for grants already awarded.

February – Review Forest Management & Wildlife Plans: Oak Ridge & Glen Oakes.

March – Commission reorganization; events to be sponsored through the next year.

April –

May –

June-

July –

August – Budget review and approval for upcoming year

September – October: monitoring Town owned Conservation easements & reporting on same.

November – Review the NRI

December -