



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of
December 1, 2014**

Present: Chairman Bill Knee, Mbr. Pat deBeer, Alt. Leanne Miner, Alt/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

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

At the October 6, 2014 meeting Chrm. Knee re-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.

MINUTES

Mbr. Miner made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 meeting as written. Mbr. deBeer seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

TOWN FOREST

Gate:

Chrm. Knee reported that on the afternoon of November 14, 2014 he met with the contractor that is ordering the gate and installing it at Glen Oakes to show him where the gate was to go. The contractor thought he would be installing it shortly after Thanksgiving and he will be sending a bill for \$1,000 to the Town Hall after installation. The Commission previously approved up to \$800 for the gate, but the cost is somewhat more than originally thought.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to approve an additional \$200 to be funded from the Residual Account for purchase and installation of the gate at the entrance to the Link Trail on Andreski Drive at the cul-de-sac to Glen Oakes.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

Mrs. Bolduc said she spoke with the Fire Chief who said he has a lock for the gate and to just let him know when the gate is in and he will put the lock on it.

Wildlife and Forest Management Plan:

Forester Charlie Moreno was scheduled to meet tonight with the Commission to go over the amendment to the Glen Oakes Wildlife and Forest Management Plan. However, he could not attend tonight and has been rescheduled for the January 5, 2015 meeting.

The Commission received an invoice from Mr. Moreno for the update to the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan for the Glen Oakes Conservation Area in the amount of \$7,500. The update includes:

Preparation of a detailed Forest and Wildlife Management Plan for the Smith parcel of the Glen Oakes Conservation Area, in Fremont, New Hampshire.

Project includes: detailed ecological study of Smith parcel and incorporation into and update of the Glen Oakes Forest Management Plan Smith Parcel:

- >Detailed field reconnaissance of new Smith parcels
- >Delineate forest types; assess forest structure and ecological attributes
- >Forest inventory--Statistical analysis of forest/wildlife resources
- >Assess timber potential, habitats, access, management logistics
- >Mapping of surface water features, forest types, trails, stonewalls, other physical features

Overall Plan Update:

- > Revise and update all maps to include Smith parcel: Physical and Natural Features, Core Wildlife Habitats, Forest Types, and Forest Recommendations, Locus, Soil Types
- >Change property acreages and dates as needed throughout plan
- >Update reference information
- >Update natural resource information
- >Update Property Logistics section, including management compartments, plan implementation, and forest access.
- >Update Wildlife Resources section. Include Biothon results in listing of confirmed species.
- >Updates Forest Resources section. Update and recalculate existing data (adjusting for forest growth and for recent timber harvest). Analyze, calculate and include results of statistical inventory of new parcels. Recalculate all tables and charts.
- >Update silvicultural planning section to include recent harvest.
- >Update Appendices. Include Smith Lot vernal pool inventory.

Multiple field visits to the Conservation Area to conduct field-research

Report: Final edits. PDF file and 3 hard copies delivered to the Fremont Conservation Commission. 100 professional hours.

It was noted that \$600 was included in the 2014 Conservation Commission budget and designated as funds to go toward the Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan update.

Chrm. Knee made the motion to pay to Charlie Moreno \$600 from the Projects line of the current budget as partial payment for services to be rendered relative to the amendment to the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan for the Glen Oakes Conservation Area. Full payment is contingent to the completion of the plan. Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST – GARRISON PROPERTY

Map 4 Lot 98

Chrm. Knee reported that he and Mbr. O'Brien met with the Selectmen at their November 20, 2014 meeting to discuss the Garrison parcel (04-098), relate what has taken place so far relative to grants secured and the opinion of the Town Attorney, and to see if they are in agreement with moving forward with this project. The Selectmen were not comfortable about the project without the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) coming through with a tangible "present easement". As a result of this meeting the Selectmen asked for the Commission and Dave Viale of SELT to meet with them again for a PowerPoint presentation showing a specific and tangible "present interest" in the land.

Chrm. Knee said he contacted Mr. Viale to let him know that our Town Attorney has advised that it is not legal for us to move ahead with the Garrison project in the manner proposed because we would not be obtaining a present interest in the land and it would not satisfy the RSA (RSA 36-A:4-a). We would need to receive a "present interest" in the Garrison property from Southeast Land Trust so we need to ask Southeast Land Trust to propose a different interest that would allow us to comply with the RSA's "present interest" requirement.

Mr. Viale related in a November 5, 2014 e-mail message that he received a call from DES that the NH DES Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) grant was fully funded (\$15,000). He also spoke with Donna Garrison and asked her to donate the fee ownership of the property after she sells the easement to Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). She asked him to go ahead and draft up an agreement. She is going to run it by her attorney first and if she agrees to donate the land then we won't need any funding from Fremont. The ARM grant and NRCS easement purchase will cover all the costs. Therefore he was going to hold off on the appraisal since it may not be needed if Ms. Garrison decides to donate the land.

The Commission received a November 6, 2014 invoice #55032 from Town Attorney Diane Gorrow in the amount of \$1,295 for services rendered relative to the possible purchase of the Garrison property.

Mbr. deBeer made the motion that the Commission authorize payment to the Law Firm of Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Laughman, PLLC in the amount of \$1,295 to be taken from the Residual Account.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

EXETER-SQUAMSCOTT RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESRLAC) DUES

The Commission received the 2014 ESRLAC dues invoice in the amount of \$150.00.

Alt. Miner made the motion that the invoice be paid from the ESRLAC dues line in the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Commission received the CC January 1 – November 14, 2014 Expenditure Report.

Mbr. deBeer said she had spent some money on plans she needed to obtain in order to update the conservation layer of the Granit data for which she will submit an invoice. Mrs. Bolduc related that all invoices for reimbursement need to be submitted by the end of this week.

Chrm. Knee made the motion to authorize payment of up to \$80 to Mbr. deBeer from the Document Purchases line of the current budget for money spent on plans to update the conservation layer of the Granit data.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Commission received and reviewed the CC -Treasurers Report as of October 31, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- A notice of the December 10, 2014 public hearing for adoption of the 2015 Regional Master Plan for the Rockingham Planning Commission Region draft copy of the plan.
- A copy of a November 3, 2014 Dredge & Fill Application plan for the Mike Heaton property in Chester. The plan contains a reduced width from 5' to 4' for the proposed "conservation walkway" and a change note in the revision area of the Title Block.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

Google spreadsheets of the Town held Conservation Easements:

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
	OS, OS2, OS3 D-31333
4342/1206	Conservation Restriction Deed Not to Further Subdivide Spruce Hill
	Map 6 Lot 50 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

There was a discussion relative to the easements and it was noted that Mbr. O'Brien has gone over them and made a spreadsheet which was then to be made into a Google spreadsheet. Chrm. Knee asked Mrs. Bolduc to find out if Mbr. O'Brien has an electronic version of the easements.

Alt. Miner took the Peter Bolduc, Dakota Realty Trust, and Hjalmer Anderson folders containing conservation easements to scan.

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.
- 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

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 – Pay NH Association of Conservation Commissions

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

Fremont Conservation Commission – 12-01-14 Meeting Minutes
Approved January 5, 2015

December –

Chrm. Knee suggested creating a Fremont Conservation Commission digital folder to create shared files for the Members. He said this could be a Google site. Mbr. deBeer suggested Wiki. This prompted a conversation relative to the convenience of having a site in which the Members can keep, and work on, documents.

At 8:45 Chrm. Knee made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is January 5, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary