

**Fremont Conservation Commission  
Fremont Town Hall  
Fremont, NH**

**August 3, 2015  
7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bill Knee called the meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:06 PM at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044.

Present were: Commission members Bill Knee, Pat deBeer, Leanne Miner, and Janice O'Brien.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 13, 2015**

*Pat deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2015 as amended. Leanne Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0:1 (abstention from J. O'Brien).*

**III. WILDLIFE & FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (STATUS UPDATE)**

Mr. Knee will follow up with the Wildlife & Forest Management Plan.

**IV. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION**

**A. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT (AS OF JULY 31, 2015)**

There was no current information for the account report.

**B. CC 2016 BUDGET WORKSHEET**

The Commission members reviewed budgets of FY14 and FY15 and completed the Budget Worksheet for 2016 provided by Heidi Carlson. Ms. O'Brien wondered if line 4610800 (Exeter Riv LAC Dues) could be included in line 4610220 (Membership Dues). Ms. Perry would ask Ms. Carlson about this. Rationale text for the Conservation Improvement and Conservation Projects lines was updated to reflect what was spent in the past two years (e.g. signage, vandalism, etc. in the Improvement line). The benefit of being able to attend certain seminars/training sessions was mentioned.

(see spreadsheet on next page)

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**2016**

**DEPT REQ Description**

\$75	Postage	Incidental mailings for correspondences, notices and/or advertising.
\$125	Copies / Office Supplies	Office supplies: relative to use of computer, printer, copier, CD discs, binders, labels, envelopes. Copies: brochures & maps of Town Forest, copies of conservation related articles and projects.
\$1	Photographs	Photographs relative to the Town Forest and events.
\$70	Document Purchases	Handbooks, RSA's and other documents pertaining to the Commission.
\$350	Training & Seminars	Includes registration fees for all workshops available to Commission Members.
\$450	Membership Dues	\$250 = NH Association of Conservation Commissions; \$50 = Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests; \$100 = Lamprey River Watershed Association.
\$600	Conserv Improvement	Residual of budget put toward separate conservation fund (for possible maintenance and improvement to existing forest lands).
\$150	Exeter Riv LAC Dues	Participation in and support of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. This could be combined with other Membership Dues.
\$1	Conservation BR Fund	Conservation Funds are uniquely provided for by statute. At the end of the year, any money left from the appropriation is turned over (documented with a letter and a check) to the Conservation Fund. The Treasurer has custody of these funds and they are paid out upon documented vote of the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. This line item is tracked to document the annual dollar value converted to the fund.
\$1,000	Conservation Projects	The Conservation Commission is requesting \$1000 in the conservation Projects line to set up a fund for the creation of the Wildlife and Forest Management Plan of the Oak Ridge town Forest. The rationale for the for the Plan is to establish a baseline for responsible forest management, to help the Conservation Commission develop strategy for preparing conservation goals for the Master Plan, to enhance our ability to attract grants and to demonstrate to perspective grantors that we responsibly manage our forests and their grant money.

**\$2,822 SUBTOTAL**

C. ONGOING LIST OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FY15 (NO BUDGET): N/A

**V. CORRESPONDENCE: N/A**

**VI. OTHER : The Members will also hear any other business to come before the Commission**

**A. PLANNING BOARD COMMENT SHEET ABOUT A GARAGE ADDITION**

There was review of a plan of 54 Martin Road where there was a request to build a garage addition. There seemed to be no wetland issues. Mr. Knee wrote that the Commission has no comment to make regarding conservation issues.

**B. SITE WALK REVIEW**

Mr. Knee presented a PowerPoint slideshow on the Horsburgh Project site walk that was done earlier today. Highlights included: location of the property in Town (Google Earth Map); terrain (glacial boulders, Appalachian Pine Forest); Wetlands 15, 16 and 17 (headwaters of the Piscassic River); aquifer protection zone map/flood plan; and a hand-drawn map of forest types and other property features.

Mr. Knee informed that Mr. Horsburgh was in contact with Southeast Land Trust after not hearing from the Conservation Commission. Ms. deBeer and Mr. Knee thought that the quality of the forest was good (pristine/good mix of forest trees – no over-cutting, etc.).

The Commission has let the property owner know that it has interest in the land and would either recommend moving forward or not based upon the site visit and research that has been done. There is an Open Space meeting tomorrow night and they would look at the evaluation (it was recommended previously - #6) they had done on the property. The Open Space people would vote (or not) to confirm their original recommendation. Ms. O'Brien noted that the Commission could not vote to move forward with approaching the Selectmen until Open Space

provides a recommendation. A vote could be made contingent upon this. Next, the Commission would ask to be put on a Board of Selectmen agenda. There was concern about the time this would take (to vote). Ms. Miner suggested that a member of Open Space attend a special meeting of the Conservation Commission and recommend moving forward. Ms. O'Brien suggested giving a timeline to the landowner.

Upon approval from Open Space, the Conservation Commission would bring a proposal to the Board of Selectmen. Upon their approval, talks would begin about getting the appraisal done (paid for by the Commission or jointly with the property owner). This would provide an idea of the land value, to be compliant with the way the bond was passed.

Ms. deBeer spoke about the importance of having communication with Southeast Land Trust before going to the Selectmen to get a feel of what their interest is (in the property) and to see if the property owner had another alternative in case the time frame was too long for him or in case the Selectmen did not approve of moving forward. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that Southeast Land Trust had prior interest in the area and she informed that there was already authorization to appropriate the bond money and only a public hearing (for public questions - not a town vote) was necessary if the Selectmen approve the project. Mr. Knee had not approached Southeast Land Trust yet due to the information he got that talking with the easement holder happened later in the process, though he agreed with opening lines of communication. Ms. O'Brien suggested talking to Southeast Land Trust to discuss partnering with them after going to the Selectmen who will hopefully approve moving forward. Ms. deBeer felt that Southeast Land Trust had clout/more resources in case they wanted to purchase the land. She felt that the option of Town ownership of the land was not the only alternative and that Southeast Land Trust took good care of their properties. She said the main goal was to conserve the property. Mr. Knee explained that the Southeast Land trust had the *ability to get* resources. Ms. O'Brien noted that the landowner came to the Conservation Commission first. Ms. deBeer spoke about the Smith project that took 7 years to complete and concern that some people had issue with that project. Ms. O'Brien noted that everything regarding that project was done legally (public hearings, etc.) and also that the project delay was due to the owner not being ready in the beginning (disagreement with appraisal).

Mr. Knee favored speaking with Southeast Land Trust after going to the Selectmen for their approval and support of using grant funds in moving forward with an appraisal. Then, they would know where the Town stood as well as what Southeast's interest was. He would like to have this done by the Conservation Commission's September 13, 2015 meeting. Ms. Miner asked if grant funds were used for the appraisal; Ms. O'Brien replied that residual funds were used for the appraisal.

After the appraisal is done, a contract would be made (with conservation partner/holder of the easement), as well as research for grants (matching funds are necessary to look for grants). Ms. O'Brien suggested the idea of using a grant writer because this takes time and expertise.

The Commission decided to have a special meeting next Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, to review information from Open Space and vote to move forward or not. The Commission would ask to be put on the Selectmen's agenda the following week to get feedback and hopefully approval to move forward.

## VII. WORKING PLAN

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

TASK	STATUS
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get copies of each easement</li> <li>- Generate a checklist for each easement</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Prospective Oak Ridge Easement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roy Foundation</li> </ul>	Done
Review the obligations for grants already awarded including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund (Set up for the acquisition of Oak Ridge)</li> <li>- Moose Plate, Recreational Trails Program, PREP Transaction Grant (Glen Oakes)</li> <li>- Smith Property: Davis, Fields Pond, Cricket and Wharton, Moose Plate and LCHIP, PREP (Smith property, now part of Glen Oakes)</li> </ul>	Done

Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan – Review for updates	Ongoing
Oak Ridge Forestry Management Plan – Review for updates	Ongoing
Natural Resource Inventory – Review for recommendations for updates of information and maps. (Charlie Moreno is reviewing for Glen Oakes area)	Ongoing
Earth Day event(s) for the current year	No action planned for 2015
Biothon – discuss a possible event for the current year	No funding available for 2015
Reorganization of the Conservation Commission	Done
Budget for 2015	Submitted
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.	Ongoing

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATES:**

- A. AUGUST 10, 2015 at 7PM (Special Meeting with Open Space re. Horsberg Property Project)
- B. SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 at 7PM (Regular Meeting)

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*At 9:09PM, Leanne Miner made a motion to adjourn. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Perry,  
Recording Secretary