

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

**November 2, 2015
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Knee called the meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:10 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. Dennis Howland (Open Space Committee Chair) was also present.

*Moment of Silence in remembrance of Meredith Bolduc for her years of friendly guidance
and help in conducting the business of the Conservation Commission.*

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 5, 2015

Pat deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015 as amended. Janice O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

III. DAN HORSBURGH

Ms. O'Brien reported that she and Mr. Knee met with the Board of Selectmen on October 22nd and explained that the Conservation Commission was in a "holding pattern" and could do nothing until Southeast Land Trust makes a decision. They informed them that the Horsburghs had a new proposal to sell and conserve more of their land and that SELT was acting to write a NRC grant for the purchase and conservation of the land.

IV. WILDLIFE & FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN: STATUS UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL): No new developments

Mr. Knee will contact Charlie Moreno for an update at the December 7th meeting.

V. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

A. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT (as of 9/30/2015).

No funds have been added to current use since July 31, 2015. The exact figure is unknown as of now.

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

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. VETERAN'S DAY OPEN HOUSE – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 5-7 PM

B. ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE FORUM – NOVEMBER 18th

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

A. OPEN SPACE UPDATES

Mr. Howland reviewed Open Space updates with the Commission members. This included:

1. Oak Ridge North Trails trail marking – continuing to update trail blazes with the metal tags and opening up the trails a little.
2. Proposal for a new trail on the Smith property – a connecting trail to the SELT Garrison property. The trails are accepted as proposed to notify Charlie Moreno and ask him to include the proposals in his update of the Forest Management Plan. Ms. deBeer will share maps and information about the proposals.

There was a site walk on October 19th on the Garrison property. Mr. Howland proposed different trails, with a trail junction near an opening in the rock wall. He was unsure where Charlie Moreno is on the project. Ms. deBeer

spoke about the importance of a recreational part to the trail and suggested asking Mr. Moreno to add a section on recreation. Mr. Knee felt that this was not part of the contracted job that Mr. Moreno signed and he did not want to see the plan delayed. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that the contract would need to be rewritten. Mr. Howland said that suggestions can be made and trails could be put in later on. Ms. O'Brien suggested asking Mr. Moreno if there are any problems with the functionality of the area that he is working on (before any trails were made). The Commission did not see an end date listed in the original contract with Mr. Moreno. Mr. Moreno will be invited to give an update on his project at the December 7th Conservation Commission meeting. Maps and information will be forwarded to him in the meantime for review.

B. PLANNING COMMENT SHEET: AMENDED EXCAVATION SITE PLAN TAX MAP 5, LOT 35

The Commission reviewed a planning comment sheet and maps for an amended excavation site plan for lot 35, tax map 5 (Seacoast Farms and Galloway Excavation Operation (who already approved the proposal: 3 acres for a staging/loading area for asphalt millings and non-hazardous crushed concrete and a location of another office trailer.) The public hearing is on November 4th (Planning Board) at 8 PM.

There was discussion about the location and it was deemed that there are no setbacks and it is not in the aquifer protection district. There was discussion about recommendations from Dan Tatum of Stantec who recommended items such as hiring a third party environment management consultant to test the concrete/debris delivered to the facility and certify that there are no contaminants. The details of the recommendations will be in the minutes of the Planning Board meeting minutes. Mr. Knee read information as backup regarding asphalt grindings (millings) and environmental concerns (e.g. when small particles become airborne or do into the wetlands.)

There was review on what the Commission will write on the comment sheet:

Galloway Plan Comment Sheet and links to resources cited at meeting

To: Fremont Planning Board

From: Fremont Conservation Commission

Regarding: Amended Excavation Site Plan for Map 5 Lot 35" (dated 10/02/2015)

Date: November 3, 2015

Although the "Amended Excavation Site Plan for Map 5 Lot 35" (dated 10/02/2015) respects the 100 foot setback from wetlands, the site is adjacent to both the Aquifer Protection District and Prime Wetland #16. The proposed site appears to be 4 feet above water table and has a porous, quick draining soil with the direction of the drainage arrows on the plan showing water from the site draining toward them. The potential for leachate and wind blown particulates from the asphalt millings containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (an EPA targeted pollutant) contaminating the Prime Wetland/Aquifer are relatively high. In addition, the potential for leachate and wind blown particulates from the crushed concrete adversely raising the soil and water pH of the Prime Wetland/Aquifer are also relatively high. Impacting the water quality in this manner would have a deleterious affect on the plants and animals associated with the Prime Wetland.

Because of these concerns, the Conservation Commission advises the Fremont Planning Board to require the Applicant:

Submit the proposed Plan to the New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau for approval.

Follow all of the recommendations proposed by Dan Tatem in his email to Heidi Carlson dated 11/02/2015.

Obtain baseline water quality data from a third party, environmental consultant for both the Prime Wetland surface water and the monitoring wells at the site that include, but are not limited to, testing for hydrocarbons, pH, alkalinity and hardness. Further, that water quality testing be continued every six months from then on. The results of the water testing are to be made available to the Fremont Building Officer/Code Enforcement Officer and Health Officer or their agent.

Secure a bond to be held by the Town that would be sufficient to remove any detrimental contaminants from the asphalt millings and crushed concrete from the site should the Prime Wetland or Aquifer be impacted as a result of these materials being brought to the proposed site.

Sincerely,

Bill Knee, Chair

Fremont Conservation Commission

C. PROPOSAL FOR USE OF THE ARIELA L MAHONEY BEQUEATHED GIFT

Mr. Knee proposed adopting an appropriate plan for using the Ariela L. Mahoney fund to honor her as an educator and conservationist. His idea was to use the funds (\$10,000) for an interpretive nature trail, starting at the library into Oak Ridge. The members liked the idea and thought the main theme could be the significance of Spruce Swamp (why it is unique and a resource). The members agreed to authorize Mr. Knee to research the possibility of an interpretive trail and report back to the commission.

D. SITE VISIT REGARDING THE VARIANCE IN THE AWUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT TO RELOCATE AN EXISTING MOTORCYCLE SHOP FROM ONE BUILDING TO ANOTHER (810 Main Street).

There will be a site visit regarding the variance in the Aquifer Protection District to relocate an existing motorcycle shop from one building to another (810 Main Street). The site visit is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 9 PM.

Ms. Miner will put an example of an easement monitoring form on the John Fremont webpage (see attached).

VIII. 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. - Get copies of each easement - Generate a checklist for each easement	Ongoing
Prospective Oak Ridge Easement: Roy Foundation	Done
Review the obligations for grants already awarded including: - Land & Water Conservation Fund (Set up for the acquisition of Oak Ridge) - Moose Plate, Recreational Trails Program, PREP Transaction Grant (Glen Oakes) - Smith Property: Davis, Fields Pond, Cricket and Wharton, Moose Plate and LCHIP, PREP (Smith property, now part of Glen Oakes)	Est. due June 2015
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	
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

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2015

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 PM, Pat deBeer made a motion to adjourn. Leeane Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Recording Secretary

SMITH TRAIL PROPOSAL

SMITH TRAIL PROPOSAL

OBJECTIVES

- Expand the Glen Oakes trail System into Smith property addition
- Link the new trail with the SELT Garrison trail
- Take advantage of "interesting" geographic features such as glacial erratics, brooks, etc
- Avoid wetlands and vernal pools
- Do not "overextend" - Be mindful of the balance between public access and "conservation" and future trail maintenance.

ASSUMPTIONS

- The Island Rd remains an unofficial, and unmaintained path.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

One end of the new trail would start on the northern end of the Woodland Trail, where the footpath comes out of the woods and meets the old road that runs from the Forrest Loop out to Brentwood. From this intersection the trail would be routed generally northeast, keeping to the high ground south of a large seasonal, wetland complex that dominates the eastern section of Smith. After about 500' the trail would turn more westerly headed for a pocket of glacial erratics and a stream crossing. Much of this would be located in the general vicinity of the Smith Foliage hike of a few years ago.

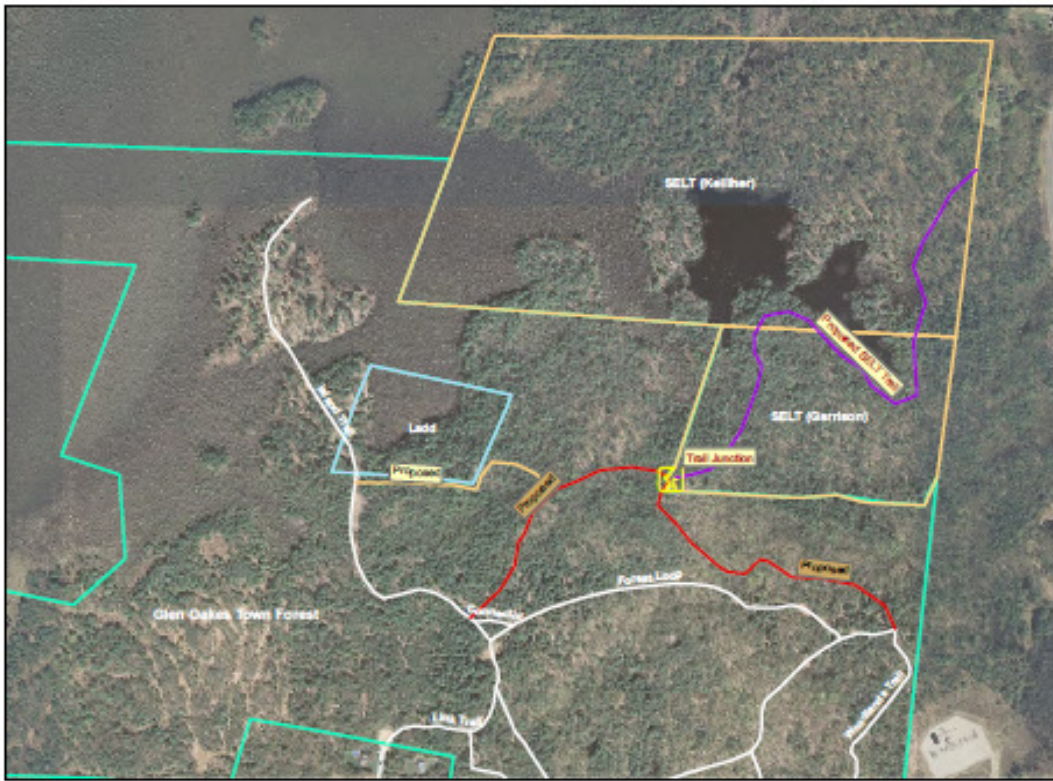
After the stream crossing, the trail would continue west to another small pocket of erratics, after which it would begin a more northerly route heading for the SW corner of Garrison. This corner of Smith/Garrison is marked by extensive rock walls. There is a break in the rock wall, along the western boundary of Garrison, a short distance north of the SW corner. This is the likely intersection between the SELT Garrison trail and the Glen Oakes trail system.

From here, the trail would head generally west, crossing a small seasonal brook. Continuing west, it would climb a ridge which runs north and south. At the present, the area between the SELT intersection and the ridge has only been minimally researched. There are no known features of interest that might influence the exact route. The trail would turn south following the ridge and finally climbing a small hill on the Smith/Glen Oakes boundary. There is a clearing on the top of this hill and an old skidder path which continues south to the Island Rd. This intersection is a short distance from the Forest Loop and very close to the old, somewhat abandoned, shortcut that runs between Forest Loop and Island Rd. The Smith Foliage Hike followed this route walking part of the ridge and the old skidder rd down to the Island Rd.

The length of this trail would be about 0.7 miles. Other than the two water crossings, it is very dry. Its endpoints are well established. In fact, we could think of it as an extension of the Woodland trail.

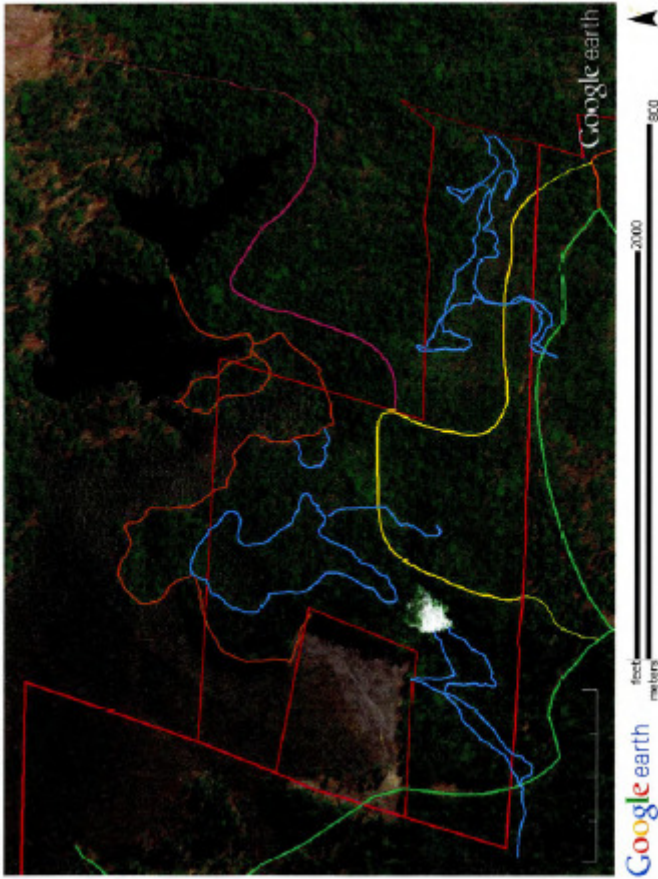
Shortcomings of current proposal

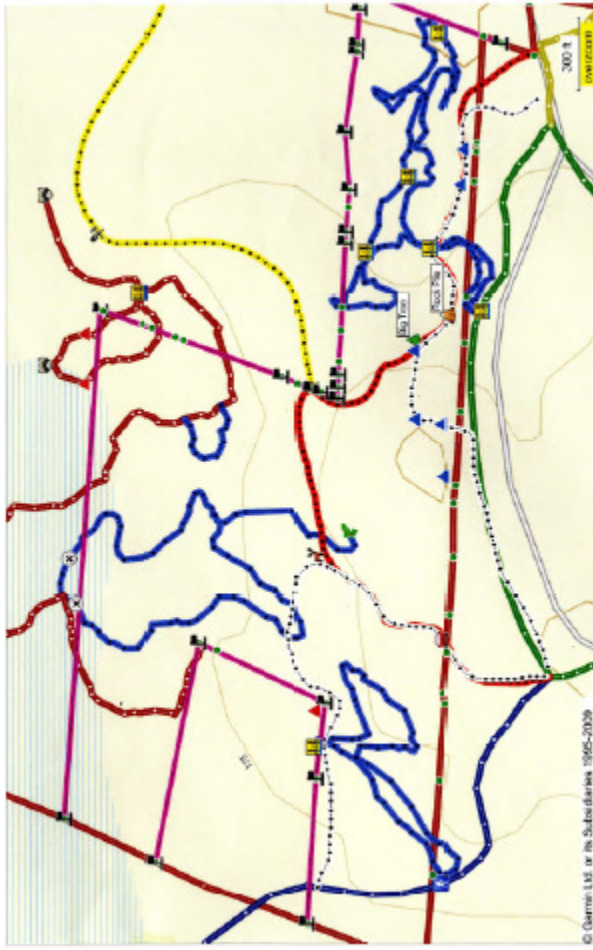
1. Proposed trail ignores some Spruce Swamp vantage points along the northern and northwestern edges.
2. New trail does not take advantage of the Island Rd. This could be rectified by continuing the trail west out to the Island Rd rather than turning south to connect to the old skidder rd in Glen Oakes. This would only add 0.05 miles to the total length of the actual trail. It would involve one more water crossing near the Ladd boundary. The routing along the Ladd boundary could be influenced by whether we want to shield the trail from the clear cut, OR route the trail near Ladd boundary to allow viewing the eventual meadow/scrub which will develop in Ladd. Before dismissing this option, one should consider the longer term prospects of adding the Island Rd to the official trail system. In this case, where should the west end of the Smith trail terminate?



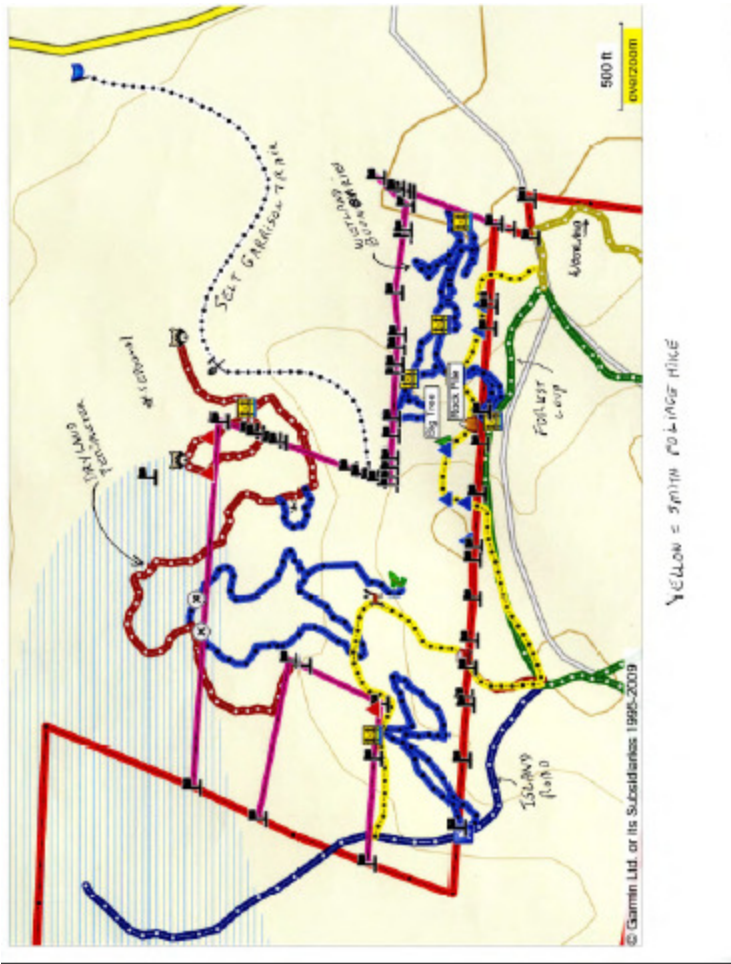
Excerpt from the Garrison Forest Management Plan

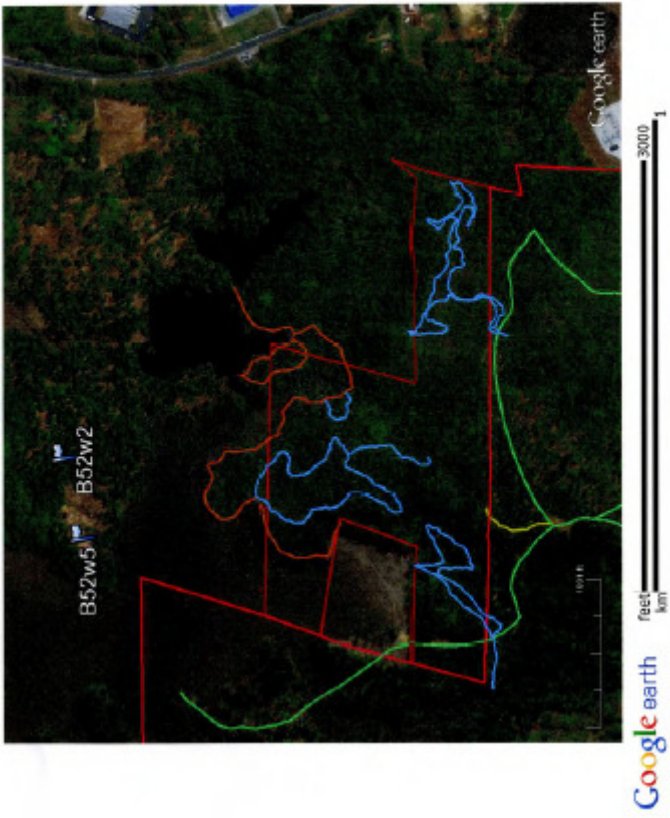
1. **Recreation**
Consider a single foot path to connect the Kellher and Garrison properties to the trail network on the Fremont Town Forest.





RED = PROPOSED WOODLAND EXTENSION 2 C.7 PHASES
 WEST END IS ON ISLAND ROAD, START DISTANCE FROM FOREST LOOP
 EAST END IS BETWEEN WOODLAND TRAIL AND OLD LOGGING RD
 PROXIMITY = CONTINUE TO BEYOND FOLLOWING HIKER PATH WEST TO ISLAND RD, MURK LADD. ADD DIST. MARKERS







SAMPLE EASEMENT MONITORING FORM

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
110 North Road
Brentwood NH 03833
(603) 679-2790

2015 – Conservation Easement Monitoring / Stewardship Report

Property: Anderson Acres: 15.35±

Current Owner: Linda and Phil Kowolski

Address: 84 Old Ridge Road
Fremont, NH 03044

Phone: (304) 281-8017

Executory Interest: Town of Fremont

Date of Inspection: August 3, 2015

- Was landowner / contact notified before easement monitoring visit? Yes No
- Did Monitor review the deed / stewardship plan before the visit? Yes No

Monitoring Checklist:

- Met owner / contact Yes No
- Walked boundaries All Some None N/A
- Walked trails / woods roads All Some None N/A
- Walked road frontage All Some None N/A
- Walked interior All Some None N/A
- Monitored from air All Some None

Conditions of boundaries: Good Fair Poor 90% Walked

Are deed restrictions being adhered to? Yes No N/A Please Explain.

If "No" please describe action taken:

Are you aware of plans that may affect property? Yes No N/A Please Explain.

Which activities / changes have taken place since the last monitoring inspection?

- Timber Harvest Agriculture Subdivision Field Maintenance Boundary Maintenance
- Land Maintenance Other activities undertaken by Town or Landowner Trail Work
- ATV use Activity on abutting land None

Please describe the monitoring inspection in some detail, particularly where you walked.

Added to file: Photos Other

I began with the interior boundary surrounding the house. I walked clockwise around the boundary and found each of the survey pins. I reflagged some of the pins with pink flagging tape to make them more visible for the property owners. I proceeded to walk counterclockwise around the exterior boundary. I traveled north along the railroad trail and turned back. I traveled north along Old Ridge Road and then southeast along the easement boundary until I hit thick wetland vegetation. The property appeared to be in good condition and there were no areas of concern.

List all persons attending the inspection:

Lindsey White, Conservation Technician, RCCD

- Did you send a copy of report to owner / contact? Yes No
- Did you send a copy of report Executory Interest? Yes No

Submitted by: 

Date: August 3, 2011

Lindsey White
Conservation Technician

Cc: Phil Kowolski, Property Owner
Town of Fremont Conservation Commission, Executory Interest



Figure 1. Taken along the interior northwest border and facing northeast.



Figure 2. Taken along the exterior southern border and facing southeast.



Figure 3. Taken along the exterior northern border and facing southeast.

