

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

**May 4, 2015
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Knee called the meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:15 PM at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044.

Present were: Commission members Bill Knee, Pat deBeer, and Leanne Miner, Open Space Committee Chair Dennis Howland and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 6, 2015

Pat deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2015 as written. Leanne Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

III. SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST – GARRISON PROPERTY

Mr. Knee was contacted by Jeremy Lougee, who had continued work on the Garrison property while Dave Viale was on vacation. Mr. Lougee requested that a letter be sent from the Conservation Commission to the PREP Grant organization that was to help with the appraisal of the Garrison property. The letter would notify that the Fremont Conservation Commission would not be using the PREP Grant that was awarded them. This would free up the funding for another Commission to use. Southeast Land Trust had asked the Commission to pick up the PREP Grant because they could not apply for it. This was necessary in order to have funding to obtain an appraisal. The PREP Grant entailed getting a 50/50 matching grant.

Mr. Knee got another message today from Mr. Lougee saying to hold off on writing the letter so that he could address some financial questions with Mr. Viale. Mr. Knee wanted Ms. Perry to get the PREP Grant contact name/s and information from Meredith Bolduc and draft a letter from the Commission thanking them for the Grant but as things have turned out, the Commission no longer needs the grant and was releasing the grant to be able to be awarded to someone else.

Mr. Howland clarified that the owner donated the land. Mr. Knee said the closing was supposed to be done next month.

IV. CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

Ms. Miner informed that she scanned everything and would be returning to the office files the information she had on: Scribner Estates, Fremont Pizzeria, Tuck Woods, and Seacoast United Soccer Club. She would place the scanned documents on the Google site and complete the DES Easement Monitoring Report. The goal was to do these reports annually on a volunteer basis.

V. WILDLIFE & I FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (STATUS UPDATE)

As of April 10, 2015, Charlie Moreno had completed the forest inventory and data plots were done. Mapping/forest assessment was to be done next, and there would hopefully be a report in June. Mr. Knee would ask Meredith Bolduc for any updates on this.

VI. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

A. CC2015 BUDGET

The treasurer's C.C. account balances were reviewed.

There was a question at the last meeting as to what the \$100 amount was in line 4610030 CC Clerical of the Conservation Commission budget and why the balance of budget line item 4610 was negative (currently -\$199). Ms. Perry had asked Heidi Carlson, and her emailed reply (attached) was read tonight by Mr. Knee, clarifying that the Selectmen wanted to see the CC Clerical money spent from the Department with which it belonged (not from the PZ budget). The Selectmen would at some point transfer money from the Planning and Zoning budget line to cover the clerical cost this year.

B. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT (AS OF MARCH 31, 2015)

The Current Use balance was up a little (from \$71,464.54 to \$72,465.15) due to the transfer.

Ms. deBeer suggested keeping a running list (add an agenda line item) of the Commission's missed opportunities due to lack of funds this year – such as:

- Drinking Water Conference
- Watershed Conference (storm water controls, permeable pavement, initiatives)
- Forest Society Workshop
- NH Conservation Commission Association Workshop

Ms. deBeer also asked about missed opportunities to pay for dues that the Commission was expected to pay. This limited opportunities for networking and knowledge of what was happening. Mr. Knee said there was nothing on that yet.

Mr. Howland asked if it was known what Mr. Moreno was charging to do the Forest Management update. Mr. Knee said that Mr. Moreno received some funding and the rest was thought to come from budget residual. He felt that forest management money should be able to generate enough annual funding to be able to pay for management and not be depleted. There was discussion about logging. Mr. Knee said that the Oakridge Property was about 10 years overdue for being looked at.

C. REVIEW THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION CABLE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Commission reviewed the C.C. announcement for volunteers that would be televised on Fremont Cable Television. They finalized the following:

**Are you interested in conserving the natural resources of the Town of Fremont?
The Fremont NH Conservation Commission is seeking volunteers!**

What does the Conservation Commission do?

- **Help manage town land for recreation and wildlife**
- **Steward and implement the Town Forest and Wildlife Management Plans**
- **Provide educational programs and hikes in your Town Forest in partnership with Open Space**
- **Work to establish conservation easements on properties in town**
- **Advise other boards on matters related to the town's natural resources**

To learn more about protecting Fremont's natural resources, please contact the Conservation Commission or join one of the regular meetings on the first Monday evening of the month at 7 PM. For more information, visit the Town's Website or the Fremont Town Forest Facebook page.

Ms. deBeer suggested doing a short video to promote the Conservation Commission; Mr. Howland suggested doing a voiceover on a slideshow/video on the town forest, etc. The Commission thought this was a good idea in time.

Ms. Miner suggested putting information on the Fremont Town Website regarding what the Conservation Commission does (such as what Ms. deBeer had written "About the Fremont Conservation Commission" in her Conservation of the Upland Buffer to Spruce Swamp report.

Ms. Perry would ask Fremont CTV what format they would need slideshows/videos in to broadcast.

D. FORESTRY NOTIFICATION FROM DES

Eben Lewis (of Land Resources Management Program) had sent a letter to the Frosts regarding 281 Beede Hill Road and a complaint of possible violations on that property (creating a pond without a permit/proper DES authorization). DES was sending out an inspector to the property. This was informational for the Commission as the matter was in the right hands. There was discussion about monitoring that is done to check compliancy, sometimes in a hidden manner, via Google/satellite imagery, permit/monitoring companies, etc.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

On April 30th, there was an email from NH Association of Conservation Commissions Executive Director Nicholas Coates stating that the membership fee had been received. Mr. Knee then replied to Mr. Coates as to why the Commission waited to pay the dues (they were unsure where the funding would come from in the current year, that they were funded \$1 for the budget but dodged the bullet of losing the warrant. Mr. Coates has offered his help to plan for future funding (putting someone in touch with the Fremont C. C. who was also undergoing issues with funding).

The 2015 Lakes Congress will be on May 29th in Concord.

There was discussion about a flier that was sent to the C. C. on a comprehensive trail service in Candia. Mr. Howland was interested in meeting with the owner, Peter DeSantis. The company is at 128 Critchett Road, Candia, NH 03034. Tel.: 603-493-4779. Email: comtraser@gmail.com. Website: comprehensivetrailservices.com.

There was information on boating on the Lamprey (herring run).

VIII. OTHER (OPEN SPACE)

Mr. Howland said that not much has happened with Open Space since their last quarterly meeting. They would be meeting tomorrow. He did mention the following:

1. There is need to replace a sign post along Tavern Road (maybe consider a metal post for the 4 signs). Two of the four posts were destroyed within 2 years. The posts were broken/splintered in the same area so he figured the same group of people was vandalizing them. One post on the west side was lifted out but he was not sure how the other two posts were splintered (he did not think it was due to ATV damage and noted that posts were on the sides to clearly go around them so the damage seemed to have been done on purpose.) He felt that perhaps it would be better for the road to be closed since vehicle traffic made the crossing location worse. Mr. Knee gave history of the road, from when the former Police and Fire Chiefs were not in favor of putting gates/bars on the Class 6 road (it would damage police vehicles, etc.). He said that the land has changed, the road has become more flooded, and the personnel are no longer around to object to doing the gates/bars. He suggested a report on the road condition to make suggestions. Ms. deBeer said that ATVs are ruining the road. She noted that someone

bought property near the location and couldn't be denied access; Mr. Howland said that a gate would have to be put south of there. The Town has not seen to put money into repairing the road so it has become flooded and it would be expensive now to upgrade the road and put power there. Foot access to get to the northern part of Oakridge is blocked due to flooding. There was a request to report information in meeting minutes (and keep in a separate file) to track/support a request to close the road, etc.

2. Metal blazes were bought to be done this summer/fall.
3. Do brushing on the gate at Glen Oakes near the kiosk for better foot traffic, etc. It was noted that snowmobiles are permitted there (Brentwood) and that there was not easy access for snowmobiling from Fremont.

Mr. Howland mentioned that it was difficult to get too ambitious with plans with the current volunteer crew (or lack thereof). It was better to have a project to do (to attract people).

IX. 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	(-\$199)
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

X. NEXT MEETING DATE: JUNE 8, 2015

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46 PM, Leane Miner made a motion to adjourn. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry,
Recording Secretary