

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

February 1, 2016

7:00 PM

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Knee called the meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:02 PM at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044. Present were: Commission members Bill Knee, Pat deBeer, and Janice O'Brien.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 4, 2016

Janice O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 as amended. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

III. PUBLIC INPUT: N/A

IV. REVIEW OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Ms. deBeer distributed a checklist that she devised for grant requirements. There was discussion about the Importance of having people (as time goes on) read through the grants and requirements to be sure they understand them (above and beyond the checklist). Ms. deBeer suggested the idea of doing publicity for grant funding. There was concern about making sure people know this information; Mr. Knee suggested making Bob Bob Meade (Fremont Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer) aware in the short term and to attach a copy of the list to these minutes (see attached).

Ms. deBeer emphasized parts of the grant requirements checklist including: "access for the Disabled" (Tavern Road requires disabled access. Another requirement is that if utility lines are added to Tavern Road, they need to be placed underground if they are on the forest side of the road.

Mr. Knee spoke about a television special about Crocheted Mountain which has the largest accessible trail in the nation (2 miles). It took 5 years of planning and 4 years of fundraising/development of the trail.

There was discussion about Cooperidge's steepness (8% qualifies).

V. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

A. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT

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

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included:

1. Letter dated January 27, 2016 stating the Town of Fremont's support for the proposed NERRS Science Collaborative Project and participation in the next phase of WISE (Watershed Integration Squamscott Exeter) in support of a grant program.
2. Notification of a Regional Impact/Legal Notice that the Raymond Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 4th beginning at 7 PM at Raymond High School. The following proposal will be reviewed at that time: Application #2015-008 – An application for site plan review has been submitted to the Raymond Planning Board by McLane Law Firm on behalf of Pinard Waste Systems. The applicant is proposing the construction of a 10,575 sq. ft. addition to an existing industrial building in order to operate a recycling processing center. The property is: Raymond Tax Map 28.4, Lot 2; 3 Otter Ct.

In question are aquifers that transcend boundaries (about 25 feet is encroached on and this is the reason they considered a regional impact.)

3. A reminder of the Town Deliberative Session on February 2nd at 7 PM at Ellis School Gym. Mr. Knee will attend. Part of the January 2016 Fremont Newsletter includes a Conservation Commission section that states: "The Commission had no approved budget in 2015, and this represents coverage of clerical assistance and some minimal office and training expenses." Mr. Knee had submitted a Town Report. It was noted that perhaps people did not realize that Conservation Commission money is dedicated and cannot be used for just anything. Warrant Article 18 was approved by the Selectmen and Budget Committee; there is no tax input.

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

A. NEXT OPEN SPACE MEETING

The next quarterly meeting for Open Space will be March 8th (the date of town elections). Mr. Knee noted that there was an email from Dennis Rowland who stated that they were looking for direction from the Conservation Commission and Southeast Land Trust regarding a new trail in the Smith section of Glen Oakes. He noted that all signs and trails are in good shape at Oake Ridge, that someone cleared a large tree from the trail, that a few logs were removed to build a "bridge" below the beaver dam, and that the gate lock at Glen Oakes is gone (was stolen) and will need to be replaced (the Fire Chief will be consulted to see what can be done to replace it).

B. DENNIS HOWLAND/OPEN SPACE UPDATE

The Board of Selectmen agreed to a Conservation Commission Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forests, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcel of land: Beede Spaulding Conservation Land Map 3 Lot 56. The Selectmen wanted to know the reasoning behind this article. The Commission members discussed the reasoning, noting that it was mostly for consistency with signage language. The lot is currently owned by the Town of Fremont and has Conservation deed restrictions. The Commission would like for the lot to become a town forest. Other reasoning includes: the Commission would need to pay for new signs that do not reflect the State RSA, and the Commission would be able to manage the land if designated as town forest (e.g. when logging is done, any profit goes toward managing all town forests).

C. MR. ARLEIGH GREENE: Engineering and Opinion Letter in Connection with the Proposed Concrete Processing and Storage Facility Located on Shirkin Road in Fremont, NH.

This report deals with runoff from concrete into the waterways. The site is for storage of demolition materials. The opinion of the Capitol Engineering Services Inc. (CES) is that there should be no citing near wetlands. There was a study done by Test Hill Environmental Services which said that the material in this particular demolition project was not dirty. The Conservation Commission was not sure if they could make a response. Ms deBeer noted that the owner now wants to have 100 trucks there (originally 40 trucks were asked for at 6 days/week). There was discussion about the quality of the road (narrowness, etc.) and possible safety issues

(the road is built over wetland in some areas).

D. NORTHERN PASS

Ms. deBeer noted that the Northern Pass was a topic at the LRAC meeting last week. The Commission had brief discussion about this. She noted that the lines to the Deerfield nexus had to be upgraded and it was figured that was why Fremont's lines were recently upgraded. Mr. Knee noted that related work in Fremont included two poles in the wetland. Discussion included how New Hampshire would benefit from this power grid. Ideas have including burying cables underground so as not to be seen. There was also brief discussion about solar panels (benefits, etc.)

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.	Available on Town Conservation Commission Google site. Set up 2016 schedule.
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)	Done. Available on Town Conservation Commission Google site. Review in 2016.
Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan – Charlie Moreno drafting.	Ongoing
Oak Ridge Forestry & Wildlife Management Plan – Review for updates	Pending available funds.
Natural Resource Inventory – Review for recommendations for updates of information and maps. (Charlie Moreno is reviewing for Glen Oakes area)	Pending available funds.
Earth Day event(s) for the current year	Pending available funds.
Biothon – discuss a possible event for the current year	Pending available funds.
Reorganization of the Conservation Commission: Annual Appointments	April 2016
Budget for 2016 – pending Budget Committee response.	

X. **NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 7, 2016**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:05 PM, Pat deBeer made a motion to adjourn. Janice O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Recording Secretary

GRANT REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

	All Grants
	Maintain Property according to easement and Town standards
	Credits: Note: LCHIP, Moose Plate and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) require logo and funding credit in outreach publications. Oakridge credits are separate from Glen Oakes. Consider including funds from private grantors as a professional courtesy.
	Glen Oakes
	Moose Plate (State Conservation Committee) – 2 grants
	Moose Plate Recognition logo and wording on all publications, notices, publicity, and maps: <i>This project is supported by funds from the sale of the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) through the NH State Conservation Committee's grant program.</i>
	Sign at entrance
	Promote NH Coverts Program: http://www.nhcoverts.org
	Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/FremontTownForests
	YouTube video about Spruce Swamp - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lml9b5ddpo
	LCHIP – NH Land and Community Heritage Program
	LCHIP recognition logo and wording on all publications, notices, publicity and maps: <i>This resource has been protected with assistance from the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.</i>
	Sign at entrance
	Stewardship Plan – Written by SPNH (Society for the Protection of NH Forests)
	NH Trails Bureau: Recreational Trails Program Grant
	Permit snowmobiles on designated trails. Does this imply public access entrance.
None	William P. Wharton Trust
None	Cricket Foundation
None	Davis Conservation Foundation
None	Fields Pond Foundation
None	Piscataqua Region Estuaries Project (PREP) (none because of small dollar amount)
	Oakridge Town Forest
	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
	Recognition sign at both entrances. See Sign template document.
	SPNHF donated half of the cost and required that the terms of the LWCF grant be honored.
	Underground utilities are required on the property. If utility lines are added to Tavern Road, this requirement must be considered if the right of way on Tavern Road overlaps the Town Forest property
	Access for the disabled. We have been unable to provide this even though it is in the terms of the original document because of the condition of Tavern Road.
None	Adelard and Valeda Roy Foundation

Grant Requirement Notes

Glen Oakes: Smith Land Addition, 2012

LCHIP – Land and Community Heritage Investment Program – Glen Oakes: Smith Land Addition, \$25,000 (2012)

Sign at entrance

Include credit info in all publicity

Stewardship Plan

This grant is somewhat complicated and includes the procedure followed if property owner (the Town) defaults on grant. Read the *Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Guide, Criteria, Guidelines, and Procedures* in the following path on the Google Drive site: Grants, Applications, Glen Oakes Smith, LCHIP for complete information about this grant.

Moose Plate – Glen Oakes: Smith Land Addition, \$15,000 (2012)

- a. Sign at entrance (we have one)
- b. Moose Plate Recognition wording on all publications, notices, maps, etc. as stated
- c. Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/FremontTownForests>
- d. YouTube video about Spruce Swamp - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ImI9b5ddpo>
- e. Promote NH Coverts Program – <http://www.nhcoverts.org>

William P. Wharton Trust (private funding) - \$10,000 (2012)

None

Cricket Foundation (private funding) - \$10,000 (2012)

None

Davis Conservation Foundation (private funding) - \$10,000 (2012)

None

Fields Pond Foundation (private funding) - \$10,000 (2012)

None

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership - \$4,000 (2012)

None because amount is under \$10,000

Glen Oakes Original Acquisition, 2005

Moose Plate – Glen Oakes, \$50,000 (2005)

- a) Moose Plate Recognition wording on all publications, notices, maps, etc.
- b) Sign at entrance

NH Trails Bureau: Recreational Trails Program, \$20,000

Permit snowmobiles on designated trails. Since the new gate at the entrance to Glen Oakes has been installed, there is no public access for snowmobiles unless the gate is opened. My opinion is that since the granter requires us to permit snowmobiles, that fact implies that there is public access to do that.

Organizational commitment to operation and maintenance

This paragraph was in the grant application. It is a description and measure of how the Town will maintain and operate Glen Oakes.

The SPNHF will be monitoring the conservation easement on a yearly basis. The Town has agreed to send police officers on ATVs to the property if there are problems with land use that need immediate attention. The SPNHF has suggested that a “Friends of the Fen” organization be formed so that those who are interested can exchange ideas about how to be better stewards of the fen including ways to implement best management practices to protect the fragile environment and increase public awareness of the beauty and function of wetlands. The Conservation Committee would like a group of volunteers to reconstruct, maintain and improve the trails. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Town are among the first to express an interest in doing so. The Conservation Commission’s intent is to work with other environmental organizations such as the SPNHF to make the property available for education programs. The presence of rare plant communities and threatened plant species as well as the extensive wildlife habitat provide opportunity for science and stewardship education. On October 16, 2004 Phil Auger, Land and Water Conservation Educator led a hike at the Glen Oakes Property that was well attended. He pointed out interesting features of the landscape and habitat as well as the well-managed recent lumbering history of the property. On December 4, Mike Speltz, Land Protection Specialist, and Dave Anderson, Director of Education from the SPNHF led another hike about the habitat of the woodland buffer and fen, and the animals who call it home. That hike also was very well attended. This project not only protects land and plants and wildlife in perpetuity, but gives the public access to it for education and recreation.

NH Estuaries Project - \$4,000 (2005)

None

Oakridge Land Acquisition, 1982

Land and Water Conservation Fund, \$44,000

- a) Must have sign at both entrances to Oakridge Conservation Area, now Oakridge Town Forest.
- b) Must include their logo and credit (as in Moose Plate and LCHIP) in publications, brochures and event notices.
- c) Access for the disabled is required. We have been unable to provide this because of flooding on Tavern Road. If the section of Tavern Road that provides access is upgraded/improved, we need to plan to make access for the disabled possible. It will be necessary for the Town to follow the requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- d) Underground utilities are required on the property. If utility lines are added to Tavern Road, this requirement must be considered if the right of way on Tavern Road overlaps the Town Forest property

This is another complicated grant. Read *LWCF-Grant-Recipient-Responsibilities* at the following path on the Google Drive site: *Grants, Oakridge, Final Reports* for details.

The Town has only parts of the original application at this time. I have searched the Land Use Office multiple times, I have searched the Selectmen records once, I have contacted Fremont's Parks and Recreation Department. I have contacted the state administrators of this grant and have some info from them regarding the grant requirements and copies of the inspections. The state administrators of the LWCF program said that today's requirements probably have changed very little since the Oakridge acquisition in 1982. I recently contacted SPNHF since they were closely involved with this project and am waiting to hear from them.

Society for the Protection of NH Forests, \$44,000

Honor the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests – donated half of the purchase price

Oakridge Easement, 2013

Adelard and Valeda Roy Foundation, (private foundation) \$1,000 (2013)

None