

Fremont Conservation Commission

Fremont Town Hall

Fremont, NH

March 7, 2016

7:00 PM

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Knee called the March 7, 2016 meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:05 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; and Dennis Howland, Mary Howland, and Jack Karcz.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 1, 2016

Janice O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2016 as amended. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

III. PUBLIC INPUT:

Dennis Howland reported that there has been motorcycle activity at Oak Ridge. There was discussion about drafting a letter to send to residents reminding them of the town ordinance (to encourage people to follow regulations). He mentioned some motored vehicle activity on the Smith property that seems to originate from an owner of a rental property that has access. Ms deBeer felt that the letter should be written to make residents aware that this behavior is finable. Mr. Knee noted that the Conservation Commission did not have authority to act in these matters without approval of the Selectmen. He will ask Town Administrator Heidi Carlson for direction on how to proceed with letters.

There was discussion about universal signs (ATVs or snowmobiles). There was a suggestion of using trail cameras to capture motorized vehicle offenses.

Mr. Howland reviewed maps of Charlie Moreno's recommended trail, pointing out the seasonal wetland areas. The path is about one mile long. A rock wall acts as a boundary between two properties. Mr. Howland noted the following routing issues that involve water crossings:

1. In the north: part of the Kelleher Memorial Forest – no way around the wetlands (see if SELT would give permission to allow a little bit of access if a loop trail was put around the perimeter).
2. In the northeast: seasonal wetland that hikers need to go around
3. In the east: uncertain manmade berm/ places where there are enough stones to step across with no bridge (inefficient water crossing). It was noted that this trail could be classified as a more intermediate one due to these characteristics.

Mr. Howland noted that the water table is better now than in the fall. He said that, for now, (Open Space) can flag some areas (e.g. dead branches that were downed) and explore how much work can be done before bug season.

Mr. Knee suggested bringing the map and ideas to SELT and have Phil Auger look at it (concerns/plan).

There was discussion about maintaining a trail that goes over multiple properties – usually there is a formal agreement between owners but it is best to ask an attorney what the best practice is.

IV. REVIEW OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Ms. deBeer referred to the checklist that she devised for grant requirements. She said she will add a few more things and she expressed the importance of future Commissions doing due diligence with grant information.

V. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

A. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT

The Commission spoke about the importance of informing residents that Conservation Commission funds are specifically earmarked and not accessible.

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

It was noted that if the budget is approved tomorrow, there would be opportunities for Commission members to attend workshops, etc. Upcoming events include: 2016 NH Water & Watershed Conference on March 18, 2016 at Plymouth State University and Saving Special Places in April, 2016. Ms. deBeer will email information about free workshops offered by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. She suggested having one for Earth Day. She informed that she would not be continuing on the Lamprey River Advisory Committee after April 8, 2016.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

There were emails regarding grants for which the Conservation Commission did not qualify: Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership Spring 2016 land project transaction (Fremont had no current projects); and Wild & Scenic Lamprey Watershed (grant referring to passive recreation at public parks of which Fremont has none).

There was also an email from Heidi Carlson mentioning that Leo d'Anjou had expressed interest in being on the Conservation Commission.

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

A. COMMENT SHEET FOR 65 VETTER DRIVE

The Commission reviewed a comment sheet for 65 Vetter Drive, where the plan is to add a mudroom and one-car garage to an existing home. The variance will be a bit closer to the property line by 3 feet (no closer than 17 feet total to the adjacent property). Where there are no wetland issues, Mr. Knee will write that the Commission has no comment.

B. LEON HOLMES SR. REQUEST TO CREATE A TURNROUND AND PARKING AREA

There was an email today from Leon Holmes Sr. who was asking if it was possible to use Conservation Commission funds for the creation of a turnaround and parking area at the end of Andreski Drive. Ms. O'Brien clarified that the current use money cannot be used for this; it is used for acquisition and not for fixing roadways. Mr. Knee will contact Mr. Holmes to see what he was requesting.

C. NH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

NH Association of Conservation Commissions Membership dues of \$333 are due in April 2016; this will be reviewed at the April Conservation Commission meeting after the town vote on the budget tomorrow.

D. TRASH ON COOPERIDGE TRAIL

Ms. deBeer mentioned that she had disposed of some trash that was left on Cooperidge Trail. Apparently, the trash came from the builder's dumpster that was not secured. Ms. Carlson had sent a letter to the developer and Bob Meade about this issue. Mr. Meade spoke to the contractor today.

E. REORGANIZATION

Janice O'Brien made a motion to nominate Bill Knee as Conservation Commission Chair and Leanne Miner as Vice Chair. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

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: APRIL 4, 2016

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 PM, Pat deBeer made a motion to adjourn. Leanne Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry, Recording Secretary