

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

July 11th, 2016
7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Bill Knee, members Leanne Miner, Pat deBeer, and Leo Danjou, Open Space member Denise Howland, and Recording Secretary Casey Wolfe

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Knee called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 6th, 2016

Ms. deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6th, 2016. Mr. Danjou seconded that motion with all in favor.

III. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

- A. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT – no new accounting report made available for this meeting.
- B. RECENT MISSED OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FY15 (NO BUDGET)- INFORMATIONAL

IV. WILDLIFE CAMERA STATUS – Ordered 07/10/2017 and shipped 07/11/2017

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. SELT – Phil Auger E-Mail regarding Proposed Smith/Kelliher Trail

Mr. Knee read an email from Mr. Auger : SELT's Land Management Committee is reluctant to allow the trail to hug Spruce Swamp. The concern is primarily from a wildlife perspective. The issue is complicated by the heavy trail use and trespass issues that SELT has had to deal with recently. Kingston is so popular now that SELT's Land Management Committee is concerned about negative impacts to wildlife. Kelliher and Garrison may follow suit. Consequently the Committee wants to wait and see. They have left the door open will wait a year or two before giving approval. SELT still plans to put a foot path in the Garrison Lot and will exit it via a gap in the stone wall near the southwest corner if the Con. Comm. is still interested.

B. SELT - Duane Hyde email regarding Horsburgh Funding for Functions and Values Assessment

The NRCS WRE program has made an offer to the Horsburghs. Acceptance of the offer by the Horsburghs is anticipated. In order for SELT to receive the ARM Grant, a "Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment" needs to be done on the Horsburgh property. SELT has asked the Commission to fully fund the Assessment. Mark West, of West Environmental, has submitted an estimate and will do the it for \$4,240. The Town of Fremont would be the

recipient of the Assessment and directly benefit from it. The study would provide valuable information about wetlands of all sizes on the Horsburgh property.

Mr. Knee suggested that the Commission could fund the Assessment by reallocating the monies in the CC Residual Account to pay for it. Mr. Knee explained that up to \$4,500 from the account could be used for the Assessment with the remaining monies in the fund to be used as a partial payment for the Updated Forest and Wildlife Study of the Glenn Oakes Town Forest being worked by the Forester Charles Moreno. The rest of the monies to pay for this Study could come from the Forest Management Account.

Ms. Miner stated that the Commission has been very conservative using these funds so the Commission should accommodate this amount. Ms. deBeer suggested that the Commission should get shape files for each wetland enabling us to use GRANIT and Wildlife Action Plan data to overlay on the Horsburgh Study for each wetland including vernal pools. The Commission should also get PDF files for the rest of the Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment.

Mr. Knee made a motion to change the appropriation decision of the Conservation Commission to spend all of its Budget Residual Account to partially fund the 'Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan – Update' to appropriating up to \$4,500 dollars from the Budget Residual Account or the "Horsburgh Property Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment" and appropriate the remaining Budget Residual Funds for partial payment of the "Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan – Update." Ms. deBeer seconded that motion with all in favor.

In addition, Mr. Knee will drafted a letter to the Selectmen requesting that Town owned lot 05-52 be considered for conservation. A letter of intent to conserve the property from the Selectmen is needed in order to improve SELT's standing for being awarded ARM grant money. Mr. Knee passed around a draft of the letter. Ms. Wolfe will give it to the Town Administrator.

C. Pat deBeer email regarding Town Wide Wetlands Study

Mr. Knee thanked Ms. deBeer for all her work creating and finding a way to share all the files from the Fremont Town-Wide Wetlands Study.

D. Open Space

1. Barred Owl Trail Update

Mr. Howland updated the Commission about the Barred Owl trail. He felt that SELT could make the final decision on where the trail goes. There is a section that is too wet to put a trail in. He wants to run the trail up both sides of the property, and then have a very small detour that goes into SELT land. There could be a sign directing hikers to where the trail picks up again. Mr. Knee suggested dialogue with SELT about this.

2. Take a Hike Feed Back

Mr. Howland proposed four dates for the Take a Hike program. He chose all four dates to be on a Saturday or a Sunday. He also made sure that there was a variety of scenery. These hikes could be published in the August newsletter, on the Facebook page, at the library, and at the Town Hall. There was some discussion about what time these hikes should start. It was agreed upon that 12 :30 was a good time.

3. Kiosks Combination Locks Update

Locks have been purchased and used to secure our five kiosks. Dennis Howland has kept one of the tools for setting or changing the combination. Our Land Use Administrative Assistant has five of the tools and the 6th locks.

4. Proposed Bridge for Oak Ridge North Update

Mr. Howland has obtained the plastic culvert section from the Town and has done an estimate on the hardware and lumber needed to bridge the wetland area discussed at our last meeting. He has estimated the cost of materials to be approximately \$60. However, Mr. Howland thinks that by cleaning up the channel and repositioning the existing stepping stones, crossing the wet area could be achieved without building a bridge. Mr. Howland wants the Commission to think about these two options.

5. Heidi Carlson email regarding Permit to Operate a Golf Cart in Town Forests

There was some discussion about an application that the Town has received for the use of a golf cart on town trails. There seems to be a conflict between what the easement says and what the Town Ordinance says on the issue.

E. Buffer Options for Great Bay – Steve Miller and Lisa Graichen Email

There was some discussion about Ms. deBeer's meeting with Mr. Miller. Basically according to Ms. deBeer, they have a two-year grant to find out what municipalities do about buffers. He wants to know how the Boards gets along with each other and what kinds of problems come up. Mr. Knee was hesitant on meeting with Mr. Miller because he felt he had little to offer him. The CC usually advises the Boards to hold the 100 foot buffer and to require that Best Management Practices are employed. Mr. deBeer advised that he contacts Mr. Miller.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE : August 1, 2016

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Knee adjourned the meeting at 9 :10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Recording Secretary