

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

October 3rd, 2016
7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Bill Knee, members Leanne Miner, Janine O'Brien, Pat deBeer, Leo Danjou, and recording secretary Casey Wolfe.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Knee called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Ms. deBeer had not arrived yet at this point.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of August 1st. Ms. Miner seconded that motion with all in favor.

Ms. O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12th. Ms. Miner seconded that motion with all in favor.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Knee announced that the NHACC is having its annual meeting on November 12th, however, there is no funding to attend.

Mr. Knee informed the Commission that he submitted a letter to the ZBA pertaining to the Old Scribner Road Variance for Richard Hewett and Lisa Darling. Ms. Wolfe updated the Commission that the variance got approved with conditions.

IV. HORSBURGH – WEST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Knee received a CD of photos of the Horsburgh piece for photo-documentation purposes from West Environmental. Ms. Wolfe will file this CD appropriately. The payment approved at the last meeting has been payed.

V. HORSBURGH ARM SITE WALK

Mr. Knee went on a site walk of the Horsburgh property that was hosted by the ARM's committee on September 28th. Duane Hyde from SELT and Mark West from West Environmental Consultants lead the walk. There was a very positive feeling that the property would rank high on the Committee's list for the ARM grant. The site is a prime habitat for Spotted and Blanding's turtles. These turtles act as an umbrella species. Where these turtles thrive, many species of wildlife also thrive.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. SELT - Duane Hyde

1. Mr. Hyde has been talking with Nick Brett who owns the property abutting the Horsburgh land and the Town's Cooperage Conservation Land. There has been some discussion regarding putting his property under a Conservation Easement. As discussions continue between Duane Hyde and Nick Brett continue, the Conservation Commission will be asked to assist. There are two components of the property - field and forest with some wetlands. Mr. Hyde feels that an NRCS WRE grant would be a good fit for the Forest and wetlands portion of the property, but he is unsure about how to fund putting a conservation easement on the field portion of the property. Mr. Knee wanted to know if members of the Commission wish to support the project financially if asked to do so.

Ms. O'Brien said that the property was ranked very highly when it was evaluated ten years ago. Beede Hill is a favorite view in town, so it's probably something worth pursuing. Perhaps Open Space should reevaluate the property. Ms. Miner felt that something like this would get the support of the Town. Ms. deBeer arrived at the meeting. Ms. O'Brien felt that we need some base information – we don't even know what the value of the property is.

2. If the ARM's grant is awarded to SELT, the Conservation Commission will have to be prepared to advise the Selectmen on Conserving Town owned Lot 05-52. The group wasn't sure if this needed to go to the Warrant Article. Mr. Knee did not feel that it should be a Town Forrest. The Commission could recommend the Selectmen either that the Town owns the land with a conservation easement placed on it or that the property is sold/donated to Southeast Land Trust. Ms. O'Brien felt that it will cost money to put the land into conservation. The Town can make revenue off the land if it's donated or sold. We need to see if SELT is interested in purchasing the land and including it as part of the Horsburgh property.
 3. Duane Hyde has done a site visit and had some discussion with Jack Mullen and Rita MacPherson regarding Map 6, Lot 47.1.1. The lot abuts the northern portion of Oak Ridge Forest. He is in very preliminary discussions with them. They are looking for \$250,000 for the 34 acres they would like to sell and conserve. This is all preliminary. Duane Hyde hasn't even talked to the Board at SELT yet.
- B. Town Administrator - Heidi Carlson
1. FCTV is now showing a ½ hour program on what is a public meeting versus what is a non-public meeting by Attorney Laura Spector-Morgan. It is showing on Saturdays at 9:00 am; Sundays at 5:30 pm; and Thursdays at 11:00 pm on FCTV Channel 22
 2. ERLAC has sent an invoice of \$200 to the Town. Heidi Carlson has offered to find money in the budget to pay for it.
 3. The Conservation Commission's Budget request and cover letter was submitted.
- C. Open Space
1. Dennis Howland, Chair of Open Space, found a box of signs. He found three Barred Owl Trail signs and three more arrow signs making for a total of four arrow signs. So, there is no rush to order anything for now. There was a discussion about brown vs. white signs. The Commission liked the brown better. The "no ATV's" signs should be in white. Ms. O'Brien made a motion to spend up

- to \$75 to purchase 12 12 inch by 12 inch signs, the money to be taken from the Forest Management Fund. Ms. deBeer seconded that motion with all in favor.
2. The Commission looked at some options for an upcoming hike in November.

VII. RUIZ – APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

Ms. Wolfe presented to the Commission an application for a garage within the wetland setback that has been submitted to the ZBA. Ms. Wolfe passed around the rolled plans for the proposed project at 19 Brentwood Road [Map 2 Lot 108.1]. The Commission did not want to make a recommendation until a site walk is done. Mr. Knee will submit a comment basically saying that the Commission will not support positioning of the garage within the wetland setback without knowing more about the site.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS CONTINUED

There was an email from Steve Miller looking for Fremont to participate as a part of an advisory committee. There was a short discussion about this.

There was also a short discussion about criteria when the Commission pays for an environmental assessment. Ms. deBeer felt that we should have a criteria of things we want when we pay for an assessment, otherwise, we are wasting money. She wants better data and more usable deliverables.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 PM. Ms. Miner seconded that motion with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Recording Secretary