

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

March 6, 2017

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved April 3, 2017

Present : Chair Bill Knee, Members Leo Danjou, and Pat deBeer, Open Space Member Dennis Howland, and Recording Secretary Casey Wolfe

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Knee called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 6, 2017

Ms. deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Danjou seconded the motion with all in favor.

III. BUSINESS

A. Open Space

- a. Fremont Open Space sponsored a winter Snowshoe hike on Saturday, February 18th in the Glen Oakes Town Forest at 12:30 PM. Mr. Howland reported that the hike was a success! Fourteen people participated in the hike. Of these fourteen people, seven were new faces.
 - b. Mr. Howland also reported that he has put up eight “no ATV’s” signs and one “no motorcycles” sign. There are two “no ATV’s” signs and one “no motorcycles” sign left to put up. There was a short discussion about how ATV’s have been getting into Glen Oakes.
 - c. Mr. Howland also reported that there is still some work to be done on the Barred Owl trail. In the spring some more blazes need to be put up, there needs to be some clean-up work down, and a crossing could use some steps.
 - d. Mr. Knee wanted to recognize the large amount of work that Dennis Howland, Mary Kaltenbach, LeAnne Miner, and Pat deBeer put into the Trailfinder webpage. There was a brief discussion about a picture of two kids by the cellar hole at Glen Oakes. The Commission noted that they should get written permission from their parents before publishing the photo on Trailfinder.info.
- B. The expedited Wetland Permit for Map 6 Lot 22 on behalf of Joel DeBlois has been filed with the Town Clerk. Mr. Knee drafted and submitted an updated ZBA Comment Sheet, recommending the granting of a special exception to construct a driveway across the wetland with a maximum impact of 760 sq. feet. Mr. DeBlois got his special exception.
- C. Bill Currier at Sandown Road is looking for a variance to create a lot at Map 1 Lot 48 where there will only be 151 feet of frontage on Sandown Road where 200 feet is normally required. Ms. Wolfe reports that part of the lot is under a conservation easement

but it doesn't look like that is being touched. The hearing was on Feb 28th. Ms. Wolfe reported that he got his variance. His next step is to apply for a subdivision review before the Planning Board. Mr. Knee commented that if the existing driveway is altered in any way, he would need to go before the Zoning Board again for a variance (for being in the wetland setback). The conservation easement on the land is held by the USDA. The Commission will get a chance for an official comment to the Planning Board when Bill Currier goes through the subdivision review process.

- D. Mr. Knee drafted and submitted the Commission's Annual Report to the Town Administrator, Heidi Carlson, in early January. The report has been published in the 2016 Town Report!
- E. Galloway Change of Use
Ms. Wolfe's had a previous discussion with RPC planner Jenn Rowden about how site plan requirements are enforced. After the Planning Board signs for a final approval, enforcement is in the hands of the code enforcement officer. Sometimes the conditions of approval require certain types of inspections to occur after site plan approval. The Town engineer plays a role in these type of inspections as well. If a business is out of compliance with its site plan, the Board of Selectmen can order a cease and desist or the Planning Board can rescind the site plan, depending on the situation. There was some concern about the Town being able to keep track of inspections that will keep businesses in compliance with their site plan. The Commission's concern arises from the past history of site plan requirements not being followed by Mr. Galloway regarding the Galloway property. There was a discussion about how site plan requirements are currently enforced and possible ways to provide checks and balances to ensure compliance with the requirements in perpetuity. Ms. Wolfe will take a stab at finding a way to keep track of site plan compliance issues.
- F. Conservation Land Data Layer update for NH GRANIT GIS Conservation Layer:
Ms. deBeer has finished the update for Cooperative Extension's project with Fred Borman. Then she got an email from Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) requesting help with a separate but similar update. Ms. deBeer is almost done with the work except that some of the easements that she is working on only take up portions of the lots. It would not be easy for her to create the shape files for these easements. Ms. deBeer has a question about "Spruce Hill" for the Commission. Mr. Knee said that this is not Open Space land and should not be included in GRANIT. There was a discussion about some small easements across Town. Ms. deBeer reported finding some errors in the deeds for these easements. There were issues with map numbers and decimals where commas should belong. There was also a discussion about doing a survey of the Town Forrest. There was also a discussion about getting the ten-acre piece by the Horsburgh Property conserved.
- G. Ms. deBeer gave an update on the progress that has been made toward preparing the data for Glen Oakes Town Forest. Ms. deBeer mentioned that Trailfinder wants her to work on the data for the rail trail that goes through Town. Mr. Knee did not feel comfortable with this since it is not the Town's property. Mr. Howland said that the stretch of the rail trail between the library and North Road does not allow ATV's unless there is snow cover. Ms. deBeer emphasized that she does not feel comfortable doing the rail trail

without the State's blessing. It was established that the primary contact listed on the website will be the Land Use Assistant with the understanding that any communications received by the Assistant will be forwarded to a designated Commission Member(s) or Open Space member who has accepted the responsibility for updating the trail information. Mr. Knee has drafted a letter to the Selectmen for review by the Commission notifying them of the Commission's intent to list Town Trail systems on the website. The Commissioners felt that this letter should include the link to the Trailfinder website.

H. ATV and Dirt Bike Complaints in Town Forests:

Mr. Knee contacted Fremont Chief of Police, Jon Twiss, regarding the complaints received of disrespectful Brentwood "kids" on ATV's tearing up trails and wetlands in Glen Oakes. Chief Twiss sent an officer to the home of one of the "kids" and spoke with a parent. He was assured that the "kids" would no longer ride their ATVs in the Forest. The police will pursue further actions should they be caught riding ATVs in the Forest again.

1. Deb Flagg has since reported other ATV riders in Glen Oakes - a girl and three boys. The first time she saw them she spoke to the girl pointing out how the ATV tracks were making it hard to walk, ski, or snowshoe on and how they were not permitted in the Town Forest. The girl claimed not to know that ATV's weren't allowed and was respectful. A week later, the same four riders sped past a family out on skis and Ms. Flagg had to get out of the trail quickly for fear of being hit. Ms. Flagg called the police and both Brentwood and Fremont officers responded. The officers encountered the riders but being in police cruisers were unable to follow the riders as they sped away. They believe the riders are local and are planning on putting an officer on an ATV in the area over the next few weekends.
2. On Sat. Feb. 25th at 1:35 PM, Deb Flagg reported that ATV's again "tore up" the trails in Glen Oakes and that she could hear them on the power lines.
3. Phil Auger reported a "trespasser" going right by the Cooperage trail gate with the NO Dirt Bikes sign and across onto a private drive that services four homes. Because the road was ice covered, he lost the track but "thought what the heck" and went all the way into Ken Pitkin's shop. He claimed ignorance. He was out of time and daylight so he left. He wants to know if the Conservation Commission has had to deal with this issue and, better yet, if we know who the dirt bike tracks belong to. He wants to talk to them and let them know what they are in for if they continue to ride on SELT land. As soon as SELT takes ownership he wants to clean up these issues very quickly and firmly. Mr. Howland reported that the private drive is a Bolduc drive.

I. Treasurer's Report: The Town Administrator sent an end of the year summary for the Commission to review. She also provided a report for the March CC meeting regarding the four CC accounts in subsection 3 of the TD accounts. Mr. Knee commented that the end of year summary should say "2016" and not "2015." Most of the monies left are for Charlie Moreno who is working on a Forrest Management Plan for Glen Oakes. The Commission has not received a final product from him at this point. The Commission is spending approximately \$8000 for the job.

- J. Ms. deBeer's appointment is up this year. She will not renew her appointment – she needs a break. She will be involved with Open Space and will continue to work on the Trailfinder project. This will be the last Conservation meeting with Ms. deBeer. The Commission is very sorry to see her go and stated that she will be sorely missed. Mr. Knee stated that the Commission will have to reorganize its leadership at the next Commission meeting.
- K. March 14, 2017 - School and Town Voting: After the Town voting, the Commission will know if it has a working budget for the upcoming year. For the past two years the Commission has had to work without a budget which has greatly impacted this Commission's ability to update training and function effectively.
- L. DES Shoreland impact permit for 135 Main Street : The Commission reviewed the permit so that they were aware of the situation. DES approved a building on Main Street to be taken down and then rebuilt in the same footprint.

Mr. Knee adjourned the meeting at 9 :10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant