

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

May 1, 2017
7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
Approved June 5, 2017

Present : Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, Member Leo Danjou, Member Cindy Crane, and Recording Secretary Casey Wolfe

Also Present : Jack Mullen, Rita Macpherson, and Dennis Howland, Open Space Member

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 3, 2017
 - 1. Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor.
- C. Reorganization of the Conservation Commission
 - 1. Ms. Crane's has been sworn in as a Commissioner!
- D. Forest Management Plan Update for Glen Oakes.
 - 1. Mr. Knee informed the Board that he has not heard back from Charlie Moreno. He will make another effort to contact him.
- E. Boundary Survey of Cooperage Town Forest (Map 3 Lot 56)
 - 1. Mr. Knee tried to get a quote from Surveyor, Tom Brouillette, however, he was unable to make a connection. Upon further investigation, he found out that Tom Brouillette passed in 2015. Mr. Knee emailed Duane Hyde at the Southeast Land Trust who then forwarded him the contact information of Eric C. Mitchell & Associates, another land surveyor. After Mr. Knee asked for a quote to have the Cooperage Town Forest surveyed, Project Manager Chris Hickey got back to him saying that he didn't believe that they needed a survey of the property done. After doing some research, Mr. Hickey discovered that Mr. Lavelle did a survey of the property in 2013 that included both the building lots and the conservation land. Mr. Hickey emailed Mr. Knee some files of this survey.

The Commission looked at the 2013 survey drawing of the property. They could blaze, or put up signs, or place monuments at the boundaries. Mr. Knee mentioned that Pat deBeer previously voiced having geodetic markers on the property. Wolfe will look through the Planning Board file for the plan set of the

property. The Commissioners decided to do a site walk of the property to find the markers, and then go back to the surveyor. Ms. Miner suggested finding a geodetic reference point. Ms. Crane felt that having some kind of indicator of conservation land would be a good thing. They could reach out to Beal Associates. Other conservation lands in Town are marked with granite markers in the corners. They will see if there is a cost associated with getting the files. They will also get a quote on sign, blazing, markers of boundary.

F. Horsburgh Property Update:

1. Closing in August pending boundary survey. No other updates. Mr. Knee sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen to notify them.

G. Mr. Miner notified the Commissioners about trainings. Ms. Crane informed the other Commissioners that she has signed up for emails from the NHACC.

H. Jack Mullen and Rita Macpherson

1. Mr. Mullen introduced himself to the Commission. He was before the Commission several months ago. He owns the land at Map 6 Lot 47-1-1 that abuts Oak Ridge and they are looking to have the land conserved rather than selling it to a developer. Last time he was before the Commission, they suggested that he contact Southeast Land Trust. Mr. Mullen is frustrated because SELT lacks the funding to buy the land. However, SELT informed him that the Federal government has a program that protects Blanding's Turtles. Unfortunately, the Federal government did not offer nowhere near the value if he were to subdivide the land. He contacted the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development and they were not interested. He contacted NH Fish and Game and he has not heard back.

The land is rated highly, yet no one has the funding to buy the property. Now Mr. Mullen is asking if the Conservation Commission is interested in buying the land. He is asking \$285,000. SELT only offered \$165,000. Mr. Mullen has had the lot surveyed. He showed the Commissioners the plans for the conceptual subdivision. He explained that asking the Conservation Commission to buy the property is his last ditch effort.

The Commissioners looked at the property on the map. This property has been on Open Space's list for a while. It's a documented property of interest. The land has gone from be a pasture, to an orchard, to woods. Mr. Knee explained that if the Conservation Commission recommends it, the Board of Selectmen can approve the expenditure. Mr. Mullen commented that it is beautiful land and the he does not want to see it developed. Mr. Mullen and Ms. MacPherson left.

Mr. Knee will reach out to SELT and tell them that the Commission is interested in the land and would like to assist in the purchase. Ms. Crane felt it was important to protect these wetlands. These wetlands are the headwaters to the Piscassic River. There was some discussion about funds to buy this property. Mr.

Miner wanted to give Heidi Carlson, Town Administrator, a call to talk to her about the process. There was also some discussion about putting a conservation easement on the property. Ms. Miner will see if she is available on Thursday at 3:00 pm to see if she is available.

I. Trailfinder.info Project:

1. Glen Oakes Town Forest is now in Trailfinder. Mr. Knee has drafted a Letter of Notification for Selectmen.

J. Open Space:

Mr. Howland explained the he started metal blazing Barred Owl Trail last week. He is trying to make the trail as motorized vehicle unfriendly as possible.

On Monday April 10th, a broken down snowmobile was discovered in Glen Oakes. This was reported to the police asking them if they could find the owner (via registration) and see if they were going to remove it. The police found the owner. Town police removed snow mobile promptly, but created substantial trail disturbance.

K. Other Business

1. Ms. Wolfe asked the Commission if they need the maps on the walls during the renovation project over the summer. The Commissioners would like the hanging maps, the tax maps, and the maps on the walls to go upstairs rather than in the storage pod.

L. Aja Mahoney Fund – Educating and inspiring land stewardship.

The Commissioners looked at the notes from last time. They also looked at the printed hand-outs. Ms. Crane liked the quest idea. There was some discussion about the difference between an interpretive trail and a quest. There was also some discussion about using the rail trail because it highlights wetlands. At the next meeting, they will talk about themes and location.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm. Mr. Knee seconded the motion with all in favor.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant