

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

September 11, 2017

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved November 6, 2017

Present: Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, Member Cindy Crane, Member Leo Danjou, and Land Use Administrative Assistant Casey Wolfe

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:07. Mr. Knee was not present at this time.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After some amendments, Ms. Crane made a motion to approve the August 7th minutes and nonpublic minutes as amended. Ms. Miner seconded the motion with all in favor.
- C. Field of Dreams
 - 1. Ms. Miner made an announcement about an advertisement for a business that was emailed to the Commissioners. Exeter resident David O’Hearn has offered his services to Commission-owned property. His business is called, “Field of Dreams Mowing and Reclamation.”
- D. INCOMING BUISNESS
 - 1. Ms. Miner introduced Christopher Bond, a biologist from CBRE, Inc., who presented the wetlands permit for the conditionally approved Cell Tower application on Chester Rd at Map 1 Lot 12. Mr. Bond explained that if the Commission signs the wetlands permit application, it will only take 30-45 days for the Department of Environmental Services to review the application. Without their signature, it will take over two months for the application to go through. Mr. Bond stated that the goal of this cell tower project is to increase the cellular coverage in the area. While the project has been conditionally approved, it still needs State permitting. Mr. Bond showed the Commission the location of the site on his computer. The wetland areas were delineated on March 8th and on May 30th. He pointed out which wetlands were considered low quality and which were considered high quality.

Mr. Knee arrived to the meeting during this presentation. Mr. Bond stated that the proposed access road to the tower has been shifted to minimize the impact to the wetlands. Mr. Knee has previously met with the wetland scientist that delineated these wetlands. Mr. Knee stated that the affected wetland is not a highly functioning wetland and did not have a problem with the proposed impact. Mr. Bond explained the desired approval timeline and how they hope to start construction in the spring. There was a discussion about minimizing the impact to the wetland. Ms. Miner made a motion to sign the wetlands permit application for the proposed cell tower. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. After the wetland permit applications were signed, Mr. Bond left at 7:37 pm.

E. COMMENT SHEETS

1. Barthelemy Variance Request

- a. Ms. Wolfe presented to the Commission a variance request application for a new lot that does not have road frontage. The original lot straddles the Fremont/Epping town line. The proposed lot would be two acres and would exist in the back on the original lot. After some discussion, Ms. Miner stated, “The Commission does not have any comments at this time. We reserve the right to comment on the subdivision application. We would be interested in any details pertaining to any wetlands on the Fremont side of the lot.”

F. COURSES, TRAININGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ms. Miner will go to an upcoming wetland identification course. Mr. Knee made a motion to cover the cost of the Ms. Miner to go to this course. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor. There was also an announcement about the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission’s annual conference on November 4th. Ms. Miner reminded the Commission to take a wetland buffer survey that was emailed to the Commission members. The members also looked at Forestry Management flyer from the National Forest Society.

G. OPEN SPACE

1. Mr. Howland was not present at this meeting. Mr. Knee addressed some concerns that Mr. Howland brought up in an email. There was some discussion about Oak Ridge South. There are some road issues on that end. Is there possibly a better access than the current access? A new trail could be created about a quarter mile before the school. Perhaps the Commission could approach the school district about adjusting the lot line or allowing the Town to put a trail in. Ms. Crane commented that there is better parking at the library than at the end of Meeting House Road. The Commission also discussed Mr. Howland’s proposal to add steps to a trail for only \$100. Ms. Crane stated that the Commission should check this out to see if it would be worth the money.

The Commission discussed some land that is owned by Phillips Exeter Academy. The land was a gift to the school. The school currently has no plans for doing anything with the land with regard to mapping and trail information. The Commission discussed some maintenance issues. Some maps on the Town’s website are not supported. The maps need to be updated and the Town needs to re-think the trail system. Ms. Wolfe noted that she needs to pull the Oak Ridge North map off of the Open Space page. The Commission discussed three upcoming hikes that will be hosted by Open Space. The Commission went through the updates from Open Space’s August 1st meeting below:

- a. Open Space feedback on interpretive trail - see Open Space minutes
- b. Sam, Rich and Dennis cleared downed trees in Oak Ridge South.
- c. Barred Owl East blazing to resume after weather changes.
- d. MAPS - Need something for Barred Owl.
- e. CC and Open Space web pages woefully out of date!
- f. Does Trail Finder offer help with maps and our web pages - Sam and Dennis to investigate with Pat deBeer.

- g. Fall Foliage hikes - THREE - looking for feedback on dates and locations, though we have three spots in mind.
- h. B52 hike - SELT connection via Garrison?
- i. Snow Shoe Hike - Camp Nasty!
- j. Oak Ridge North post 3 water crossing - Will need substantial bridging if we ever want to restore this trail. Related to this, is there any money left for town forest maintenance projects?
- k. OS needs a PR person; current active membership is all WOODS people.
- l. Misc questions - Did Charlie ever finish updating Town Forest Management report? When will the next logging take place?

Mr. Knee has been in touch with Ms. deBeer about trailfinder.com. She seems to be okay and does not need help from UNH at the moment. There was a discussion about contacting Charlie Moreno to get the Fremont Forestry Report. The contract for this work was likely signed in 2014. The groundwork for this report has already been done. The Commissioners will look to get Mr. Moreno's contact information.

H. BUDGET

There was a conversation about whether or not some funds in the forest maintenance budget should be used to buy tools for Open Space. The outcome was that tools for trail volunteers are not appropriate for maintenance purposes. The Commissioners went through their budget and discussed various line items.

I. NON PUBLIC SESSION

Per RSA 91-A:3, Ms. Miner made a motion to go into nonpublic session to discuss land acquisition. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote.

Ms. Miner made a motion to leave nonpublic session. Mr. Knee seconded the motion with all in favor.

J. OTHER

There was some conversation about finding a way to transfer the property evaluation process from Open Space Advisory group to its successors.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor.

L. Next Meeting: October 10, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant