

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

November 6, 2017

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved December 4, 2017

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

Also Present : Tim Lavelle, Open Space Members Dennis Howland, Jack Karcz, and Pat deBeer

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After some edits, Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the September 11, 2017 minutes as amended. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor. Mr. Knee also made a motion to approve the September 11, 2017 nonpublic minutes as amended. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor.

C. INCOMING BUISNESS

1. Tim Lavelle introduced himself to the Commission. He got his Special Exception from the ZBA back in August to fill in 962 square feet of wetlands for a driveway on Thunder Road at Map 2 Lot 1-16. Both Ms. Crane and Mr. Knee visited the site this past summer and found wetland vegetation to be relatively sparse with substantial area for natural infiltration and appropriate sized culvert/design to allow wetland crossing. The project still needs approval from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). Because there is less than 3,000 square feet of impact, this project is eligible for an expedited application process. If the Commission signs the DES Wetlands application, the application can go through the expedited process. Ms. Crane commented that the wetland area is very narrow where the driveway would cross. Mr. Lavelle commented that a stonewall will hold the driveway up. He decided to go with a two-foot culvert, so that when it gets clogged it will still work. Mr. Knee stated that any questions that he had were answered when he went on the site walk. Ms. Miner made a motion to sign the wetlands permit application. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor. The Commission members signed the permit applications. Mr. Lavelle left at 7:21 pm.
2. Open Space members Dennis Howland, Jack Karcz, and Pat deBeer were present at this meeting for a discussion with the Commission members. Mr. Howland informed the Commission that squirrels are eating the paint off of the blazers in the town forest. He also stated that there is not much that can be done to prevent this problem. There was a discussion about accessing Oak Ridge South by crossing the School District's property. Currently the access is through the Rail Trail and then Tavern Road. Access from the library is about six tenths of a mile. This alternate access would save about three tenths of a mile round trip. To do this, about 400 feet would

need to be cleared. Would this new access be worth it? Mr. Karcz commented that hikers do not use Meeting House Road for access but they do use the library for access. He also stated that they would need to approach the School District. Mr. Knee questioned if a new access would make it easier for snowmobiles to get in. There was a discussion about the location of the proposed trail. Mr. Knee stated that he would like all three Commission members to get on a School Board agenda. Ms. Miner will call the SUA office and request to get on an agenda.

Mr. Howland reminded the Commission of a situation late this past winter where a snowmobile ruined a trail. Mr. Holmes Sr. never got around to fixing the trail and it still looks pretty bad. Ms. Miner will contact Ms. Carlson to notify her that the trail is still in need of repair. Mr. Howland also noted that he has made a list of items on the Open Space webpage that need to be updated. There was also a discussion about trailfinder.com. Glen Oakes is on the website, however, Oak Ridge South is not up there yet. At this time, the access should be from the Rail Trail. There was also a discussion about evaluating the signage in the town forest. Mr. Howland reported that there were some new faces at the Fall Hikes this year.

Mr. Karcz stated that back in 2001, Open Space was created so that there was a separate group, apart from the Conservation Commission, to rate properties. The process called to have at least six people rate the property. In 2009, the Rockingham Regional Planning Commission did the same thing. They did this again in 2010, however, Open Space never integrated these results in its process. He explained that the Open Space Group was created because of some sensitivities that existed back then. Ms. Miner felt that some sensitivities still exist. Mr. Karcz stated that the Open Space Advisory Group has not rated a property in five years. He asked if it is time to upgrade the process. For example, how should the group handle a disagreement between the two systems? The ratings done by the Rockingham Regional Planning Commission only recognize the top one hundred properties. The Bolduc property is ranked property number 87 in the RPC's ranking. Mr. Knee felt that because of Louise Lane, it was still worth buying the property. Mr. Karcz asked the Commission if they still want the protection that the Commission wanted back in 2001. Ms. deBeer explained that at that time the Commission had to legitimize the process. Ms. Crane stated that she could see the value in having a separate Committee decide. Ms. Miner stated that it should be a very transparent process.

Mr. Howland mentioned plans that he had for a snowshoe hike over the swamp. Ms. Miner asked if anyone had heard from Charlie Moreno about the Forest Management Plan that he owes the Town. Ms. deBeer mentioned that she has copies of the original contract. Perhaps the Town needs a new forester. There is a county forester through UNH Cooperative Extension. Ms. Miner also asked for input on books for a library. Mr. Knee mentioned that The Natural Heritage Bureau published a helpful resource. Open Space left at 8:51 pm.

D. Administration

1. Ms. Miner still has not been reimbursed for a training that she went to. Ms. Wolfe will look into this.
2. Mr. Danjou recently resigned from being a Commission member. The Commission recognized Mr. Danjou's time serving on the Commission.

3. Note to meeting minutes: Special Meeting minutes from September: Note that Blandings turtles are an endangered species under reptiles on the Fish and Game web site. Notes stated they were “species of concern.”
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/endangered-list.html>
4. In the June 2017 minutes, it states that the trail discussed for the Mahoney project included the southern end of Glen Oakes. It was actually the southern end of Oak Ridge.
5. Post final Stewardship Plan on Town Website. Delete the Sept. 29th version everywhere so there is no confusion about which is the final stewardship plan.

E. BUDGET

1. Ms. Miner stated that she has submitted the proposed budget for 2018. She said it was good to meet with the Budget Committee. The Commission requested \$3,900. They were given \$2,000.

F. COMMENT SHEETS

1. Ms. Wolfe presented to the Commission an application for a variance submitted by applicant Kristen Spellman at 3 Beach Street, Map 7 Lot 72, to have a shed within her 30-foot side property setback. The Commission stated for their comment sheet, “With no wetland issues, we have no comments at this time.”

G. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee has requested a \$100 donation from the Commission. After some discussion, Ms. Miner made a motion to contribute the \$100 to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor.

H. CONSERVATION – Nonpublic Session

1. In accordance with NH RSA 91:A:3, Mr. Knee made a motion to go into nonpublic session to discuss land acquisition. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

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

I. ADJOURNMENT

1. Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion with all in favor.

J. Next Meeting: December 4, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant