

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

January 8, 2018
7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
Approved

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

Also Present: Richard Cooper and Dennis Howland

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Wolfe noted that she made the requested edits to both sets of minutes. Mr. Knee made a motion to accept the December 4, 2017 minutes and the nonpublic minutes of December 4, 2017. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Knee made a motion to put the discussion about appraisal of the Brett property into public. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

C. ADMINISTRATION

1. Ms. Miner announced that the next meeting will be on February 5, 2018.
2. Ms. Miner also announced that February 8, 2018 is the tentative date for the public hearing for the acquisition of the Bolduc property.
3. Mr. Howland stated that Open Space will host their snowshoe hike on February 24th.
4. Ms. Miner mentioned that the Commission needs to coordinate a date to meet with the School Board to discuss creating a trail on a lot owned by the School District.
5. Mr. Knee stated that a conference called Saving Special Places will be on Saturday April 7th.

D. BUDGET

1. Ms. Miner informed the Commission that the remaining 2017 budget of \$28 will be transferred to the Residual Budget.
2. The Budget Committee approved \$2000 for Conservation Commission 2018 budget (see spreadsheet).
3. Expenditures approved and pending:
 - a. \$2,250 (2017) for appraisal approved November 2017.
 - b. Notification for Bolduc Property Public Hearing ~\$100 – Approved at December meeting

- c. Reference books to be added to the Commission's library (up to \$100) – approved at December meeting
4. There was some discussion about the Land Use Change Tax. The Commissioners looked at a letter from the Town Administrator informing them that in 2017 \$25,357.10 has been added to the Conservation Account as a result of the Land Use Change Tax.

E. FOREST PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

1. Ms. Miner informed the Commission that Forester Charles Moreno is tentatively scheduled to come to the February Commission meeting. He has been asked to update the 2009 Forest and Wildlife Management Plan for the Smith Parcel in Glen Oakes including:
 - a. detailed ecological study of Smith parcel,
 - b. updates to forest inventory and analysis of forest/wildlife resources,
 - c. mapping (water features, forest types, trails stone walls, other physical features)
 - d. Evaluation and update to Conservation Area Organization
 - e. Recommendations for access, forest and habitat management
 - f. Summary of community uses allowed and recommendations to maintain (hiking, hunting, horseback riding)
 - g. Updates to appendices and resources (species list trees, shrubs, vines, ferns)
 - h. Benefits to maintaining FMP. Attracts grants and to demonstrate to perspective grantors that we responsibly manage our forests and their grant money (to date up to \$115K).

There was some discussion about making a motion to spend up to \$7,500 for a Forest Management Plan update using Forest Management Funds, however, the motion was never formally made or seconded. There was some discussion about the Forest Management Fund and the Forest Management Plan.

2. Wayfinding - Signs
 - a. The Commission discussed putting up new signs that pointed to trail heads from the road. Leon Holmes Sr recommended posts/signs from <http://www.newenglandbarricade.com/> and to order the higher grade steel posts-reduced maintenance/replacement. There was some discussion about where to put the signs. Each sign will be about \$21. Mr. Knee will work on a map of where to work the signs.

F. CONSERVATION

1. Brett parcel – No updates. Duane Hyde, Southeast Land Trust, should be in contact with the Commission in March or April with a business plan.
2. Bolduc Parcel – Ms. Miner has met with Board of Selectmen and discussed the purchase approval process and cost. The Public Hearing date is still to be determined and is pending input from town legal counsel to review outstanding questions:

- a. Letter of Interest – securing proposal
- b. Survey required
- c. Title search required
- d. Purchase and Sale Agreement
- e. Purchase price
- f. Administrative matters

Mr. Knee felt that the rationale for acquiring the property has already been covered in past meetings.

G. OPEN SPACE ONGOING and PROPOSED PROJECTS

Below are some current Open Space projects:

1. Survey and mapping of trails, Trail Finder – Ms. deBeer has a draft of a map of Oak Ridge for Trail Finder. In the New Year she will finish the project.
2. Update Kiosks (Smith addition and Horsburgh – coordinate materials with SELT). There was a discussion about the possibilities of adding a kiosk by the library.
3. Upcoming hikes – Snowshoe hike on February 24th.
4. Updates to website - Ms. Miner will meet with Ms. Wolfe this coming Thursday to discuss the Commission's webpage.

H. COMMENT SHEETS

Ms. Wolfe introduced two variance applications that will be before the Zoning Board this month:

1. Brenda and Scott Barthelemy have applied for a variance from Article VII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance so that they can host the New Hampshire Renaissance Faire in May 2018 at Map 6 Lot 34. Mr. Knee stated that the Commission does not have any concerns at this time.
2. Kevin and Erin Bolduc have applied for a variance from Article XII Section 1201.5 of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance to permit the construction of a garage 67.9 feet from a wetland and a shed 37.8 feet from a wetland where a 100 foot setback is normally required at 115 Tavern Road, Map 4 Lot 2. The Commission recommended the Zoning Board to not act on the application until a joint site walk takes place. Mr. Knee had an objection to the proposed shed and noted that the proposed garage could depend on the distance, slope, and function of the wetland.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mr. Howland stated that thanks to Rich Cooper and Sam Harris, they were able to flag and roughly route a connector link to Oak Ridge North. There was some discussion about this.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Mr. Knee seconded the motion with all in favor.

K. Next Meeting: February 5, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant