

Fremont Conservation Commission  
Fremont Town Hall  
Fremont, NH

March 5, 2018

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved

Present: Vice Chair Bill Knee, Member Pat deBeer, Member Rich Cooper and Land Use Administrative Assistant Casey Wolfe

Also Present: Dennis Howland, Open Space Chair

A. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Knee called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

C. ADMINISTRATION

1. The 2018 NH Coverts Project Workshop will be held May 2-5, 2018 in Greenfield, NH. Applications for the 2018 NH Coverts Project Workshop were due March 1<sup>st</sup>. UNH Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the NH Fish and Game Department, and the NH Division of Forests and Lands is looking for landowners and other individuals committed to wildlife conservation and forest stewardship. Mr. Knee noted that it is too late to apply at this point, but he wanted to let folks know that this is an annual event. For more information about the workshop agenda, visit our website at [www.nhcoverts.org](http://www.nhcoverts.org).
2. On Wednesday, March 7th at 10:00 am representatives from the Commission and Open Space are scheduled to meet with Superintendent Allyn Hutton at Ellis School to discuss creating a trail on a lot owned by the School District.
3. March 13-15, NEAEB Meeting in, Devens, MA. The cost is \$80. There was no interest among the Commissioners to attend this meeting.
4. March 23<sup>rd</sup> NH Water and Watershed Conference – registration opened in February
5. April 7<sup>th</sup> Saving Special Places – registration opened February 12<sup>th</sup>

D. Earth Day

1. Mr. Knee summarized that Town Administrator Heidi Carlson has been assisting community members Nancy Murray and Jamie Thompson in planning for a roadside cleanup around Earth Day, April 22. They have been throwing around ideas for getting volunteers in an effort to get organized. Heidi can obtain 150 free, blue bags for picking up roadside trash and is willing to work out a dumpster for the trash to be located at the Town Highway Shed around the Spring Bulky Day a week later. She will also help with getting the word out through the newsletter and Town website.

Ms. Murray introduced herself to the Commission. She has seen a lot of trash on the side of route 107. She would like to start a promotion soon to organize a town-wide trash cleanup day around Earth Day. She passed out a draft flyer to the Commissioners that would advertise the event. Ms. deBeer stated that gloves are very important and that the flyer should address that. Mr. Cooper stated that he likes the idea of assigning routes to specific people and that these clean-ups require a lot of organization. Ms. Murray stated that she will get in touch with Jamie Thompson. Ms. deBeer mentioned that Dunkin Donuts might be willing to donate some coffee for the event. Mr. Cooper volunteered to help that morning. Mr. Cooper also suggested that the event should only take place on one single day rather than a whole weekend. Ms. Murray decided to have the event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and have the rain date on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Murray left at 7:32 pm.

#### E. 2018

##### 1. Review member term expirations:

After some discussion, Mr. Knee made a motion for Ms. Miner to continue as Chair and for Mr. Knee to continue as Vice Chair of the Commission. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

#### F. COMMENT SHEETS

1. Ms. Wolfe updated the Commission on the outcome for Kevin and Erin Bolduc's variance request to permit the construction of a garage 67.9 feet from a wetland and a shed 37.8 feet from a wetland when a 100 foot setback is normally required at 115 Tavern Road, Map 4 Lot 2. She informed the Commission that they received their variance.
2. Ms. Wolfe stated that she may change the due dates for Zoning Board applications to ensure that the Commissioners will have an opportunity to make their comments before the Hearing.

#### G. FOREST PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

##### 1. Smith Addition

- a. Charlie Moreno scheduled to attend to discuss addition to Glen Oakes Forest Management Plan, Smith parcel addition.
- b. Update the 2009 Forest and Wildlife Management Plan for the Smith Parcel in Glen Oakes. Request draft prior to April meeting
- c. There were no updates on this agenda item at this time.

##### 2. Wayfinding Signs

- a. Mr. Knee has ordered the Wayfinding signs for the hiking trails. Mr. Cooper has spoken with the Road Agent about this and he has their full support. The Road Agent still needs to figure out the State road setbacks.
- b. Ms. Wolfe stated that she is in the process of requesting a reimbursement check for Mr. Knee.
- c. Posts and hardware have been ordered. Mr. Knee is waiting to hear from the company that they have arrived.

#### H. CONSERVATION

1. NH Fish and Wildlife is seeking permission to conduct biological monitoring for state endangered Blanding's turtles and state threatened spotted turtles as part of their regional efforts to conserve these species. The Spruce Swamp area is a high priority conservation area for Blanding's turtles. Vote in case needed.
  - a. The Town Administrator has recommended the following: That the Commission discusses and makes a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for their approval in the "spirit of cooperation."
  - b. Mr. Knee read a draft letter to the Board of Selectmen (see attached).
2. Brett parcel – No updates. Duane Hyde, Southeast Land Trust, should be in contact with the Commission in March or April with a business plan.
3. Bolduc Parcel – Ms. Miner has engaged the attorney and is reviewing the PSA. She will update the group as the process proceeds and will set a date for the Public Hearing. Mr. Knee emphasized that the taxpayer's money will not be used for this purchase.

#### I. OPEN SPACE ONGOING and PROPOSED PROJECTS

1. Mr. Howland passed out a "shopping list" that the Open Space Advisory Group has put together (see attached). He stated that this list identifies a number of projects and estimates some of the costs.
2. Mr. Howland passed around a picture of a "Leopold Bench" that he made in his workshop. Phil Auger from the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) told Mr. Howland to use rebar to anchor the bench into the ground. Mr. Howland stated that if the Commission was interested, he could think of four places to put these benches.
3. Mr. Howland stated that some of the projects in the "shopping list" are not likely to be addressed this year. For example, he doubts SELT will have any trails to hook-up to the Horsburgh property, however, he wanted to get it on the list. When it is time to hook up the trails, they will need signage and some foot bridges. On the other hand, SELT will probably finish the Garrison Memorial Forest trail this year which has been held up due to an archeological study. If this trail hooks up with Glen Oaks this year, Open Space will need a kiosk and some signage.
4. Mr. Howland informed the Commission that they could probably save a little money on the new kiosk at the library if they scaled it down from sixty inches wide to forty-eight inches wide because Plywood and Plexiglas comes in sheets of forty-eight inches. He felt this is something that the Commission should think about. Mr. Howland stated that at the Open Space meeting the members agreed to simply duplicate the other kiosks that they have. There was also some discussion about reusing an old kiosk. Mr. Knee stated that he would be fine with the kiosk being built either size and that funding this project would be a high priority for the Commission. Mr. Howland said that if they can live with a kiosk that is a little smaller they can save a few bucks. There was some discussion about the size of the maps that would be in the kiosk.
5. Mr. Knee stated that the Commission is pretty highly focused on the rail trail access to Oak Ridge South, so a kiosk and signage would be a high priority. There was some discussion about the kind of signage that would be necessary. Mr. Knee showed everyone a map of Oak Ridge South with the Wayfinding sign locations marked. There was some discussion about planning a quest on this trail and where

good locations would be for benches and treasure boxes. Mr. Knee wants to work toward providing an educational experience about the forest on the trails that is well-defined.

6. Mr. Howland stated that he is still working on updates to the website. There was some discussion about items that need to be updated on the Conservation Commission and Open Space webpages.
7. Mr. Howland informed the Commissions that Phil Auger (from SELT) is looking for Fremont's assistance in curtailing motorized vehicle use on the trails. Mr. Howland suggested sending out a friendly note to the abutters of the Cooperage Forest and simply ask for their help with solving this problem. Ms. deBeer stated that she did not think that SELT will allow the Town's trail system to connect to their property if the problem continues. There was some more discussion about addressing this problem.

#### J. OTHER BUSINESS

##### 1. Zoning Board

a. Ms. Wolfe informed the Commission that the Zoning Board has approved the variance application to waive the Town frontage requirements of 240 feet for the addition of a third family dwelling at 91 Sandown Road. The applicant has 220 feet but needed 240 feet of frontage for a third family dwelling. Note: Once a site plan is developed and goes before the Planning Board, the Commission will have the opportunity to comment on the plan.

##### 2. Planning Board

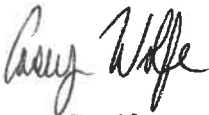
a. There was some discussion about the New Hampshire Renaissance Faire who has a site plan application before the Planning Board. Mr. Knee read a draft letter to the Planning Board concerning this application. Ms. deBeer asked if the wetlands on the property should be delineated. Mr. Knee felt that this might not be fair if there are only vernal pools in the area. It might be appropriate to ask the applicant to post signs near the wetlands asking the guests to stay out. There was a consensus to use the drafted letter as a comment sheet for the Planning Board.

#### K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Knee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

L. Next Meeting: April 2, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,



Casey Wolfe  
Land Use Administrative Assistant

**To:** Fremont Board of Selectmen

**From:** Fremont Conservation Commission

**Regarding:** Joshua Megyesy, Wildlife Biologist, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Request to get permission to conduct biological monitoring for state endangered Blanding's turtles and state threatened spotted turtles as part of our regional efforts to conserve these species

**Date:** March 5, 2018

Dear Selectmen,

Several years ago the Conservation Commission gave NHF& G permission to conduct their first turtle study on Town Forest land. The study has proved enormously important in conserving more land in Town and has the potential to conserve even more land through grants. At the time, the Conservation Commission granted permission with the stipulation that the results of the study be shared with the Commission. To the Commission's disappointment the results of the study were never give to the Commission.

Regarding further study, the Commission is whole heartedly in favor of granting Joshua Megyesy of the NH F &G permission to conduct further biological monitoring of the turtles but would ask again that it be stipulated that the study, when completed, be shared with the Commission. With that in mind, the Commission urges the Board of Selectmen to grant permission for the study to be conducted on Town Forest land and to authorize the Town Administrator, Heidi Carlson, to notify Mr. Megyesy of your decision.

Respectfully,

Bill Knee, Vice Chair

Fremont Conservation Commission