

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

April 2, 2018
7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
Approved

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

Also Present: Open Space Chair Dennis Howland and Charlie Moreno of Moreno Forestry

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner opened the meeting at 7:08 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After an amendment, Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2018. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

C. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – Charlie Moreno

Mr. Moreno was scheduled to discuss the addition to Glen Oakes (the Smith property) and the update to the 2009 Forest and Wildlife Management Plan. Mr. Moreno passed out two maps of Glen Oakes to each of the Commission members. After each of the Commission members introduced him/herself, Mr. Moreno stated that his new assistant is very good with GIS. One aspect of the maps they would like to change is to make them for 11x17 paper rather than 8x11.5. There is just too much information to pack into the smaller paper size. One map was the “Physical and Natural Features” map, and the other was the “Management Recommendations” map of Glen Oakes. He pointed out that the features map shows all roads, existing trails, streams, vernal pools, interesting trees, stone walls, the old cemetery, and the old cellar holes, so it is a very interesting map of the land. This map includes the Smith parcel. He stated that it was nice that there is so much conservation land surrounding Glen Oakes.

The second map illustrates the management recommendations. In the original management plan, he divided the property into three management areas (also known as compartments). He explained that for the updated version he changed the compartments to include the Smith property, which is now Compartment 4. The purpose of forest management is to maintain the species diversity on the land and to allow for mixed-age forest generation. To achieve this goal, there needs to be a light harvest that is carefully planned and carefully done. In the original plan, he set up a schedule to harvest one compartment every five years. With the addition of a fourth compartment, Mr. Moreno explained that he was thinking of a three or four year harvest cycle. He pointed on the map which compartment was harvested in 2013. Now that it is five years later in 2018, he was thinking that a harvest should be done in the Smith property so that the trails can be installed. He then pointed to the next compartment that would need to be harvested in

either three or four years. So, depending on what they decide, the cycle would finish either every twelve or sixteen years.

Mr. Moreno stated that the plan describes what needs to happen in each compartment, since each compartment needs slightly different treatment. He told the Commission that he is always willing to go for a walk with Commission members so they understand the work that is done in each compartment. Mr. Knee explained that part of Mr. Moreno's job is also to look through and accept bids from professionals to do the work. Mr. Moreno stated that his firm works as the project manager but they work in the Town's best interest. He pointed to the recommendations map and stated that the green and yellow shaded areas are the areas he would stay out of because they are either wetlands or buffers to prime wetlands. He asked if the trails have been put in yet on the Smith property. Mr. Howland handed him a map of the work that they have done. He explained that they did their best to keep the trails close to the property boundaries. The trails have been cleared and blazed. Mr. Moreno said that they would map this in to the physical features map. Mr. Howland explained the owners of the abutting conservation land, SELT, do not have any plans to put in a trail that would connect the two trails on the Smith property. They have signs directing hikers how to get to the other side and they have not heard any complaints.

Mr. Moreno stated that now is the time to think about doing a harvesting project in September or October. He explained to get this started, he would need to send the Commission a work agreement. There was a discussion about having a field walk once the trees on the Smith property are marked and also have a walk in the section that was harvested in 2013. Ms. Miner suggested scheduling this walk after the management plan is updated. Mr. Moreno stated that it would be a good idea to update the most southern property lines in terms of blazing and painting. Mr. Knee stated that a condition of purchase was that the lot had to be surveyed. There was some discussion about markers that should exist at each corner. Mr. Moreno recommended blazing and painting these lot lines every ten years. Answering Ms. Miner's question about whether leaves on trees and bushes hinder blazing and painting of the boundary, Mr. Moreno stated that it is fine to do this work in the summer time. It is possible this property line will just need some touching up. There was also a short discussion about invasive species on the property. Mr. Moreno recommended a property-wide assessment every five years to find invasive species and pull them before they spread.

Mr. Moreno stated he would like to walk through the area that was harvested in 2013 to see how the regeneration was doing. He also mentioned that one of the roads that leads to one of the compartments would need to be repaired before any harvesting could be done there. He recommended using any income from harvests to maintain the property. He felt that this maintenance money could go a long way to keep the forest in shape. Mr. Moreno stated that this next scheduled harvest should bring in another \$10,000. Ms. deBeer asked for his general impression of the Smith property now that he has been out there. Mr. Moreno stated that it is a nice piece of land with good oak, pine, and a fair amount of hemlock. He stated that the wetlands are interesting and that conserving this land was a nice piece to the puzzle because it is in the middle of a lot of conservation land. He

guessed it has been about thirty years since the last time that the property was harvested. Mr. Moreno read through what he estimated the age of the trees were in various areas of the forest.

Mr. Knee stated that he would enjoy having the group walk in the woods together. Mr. Moreno recommended getting the harvesting done before tackling the other projects. Mr. Moreno mentioned again that they are working on the maps to get them more readable. There was some discussion about improving these maps. Mr. Moreno left at 8:00 pm.

D. Open Space

1. Mr. Howland stated that he has already bought most of the materials to build the new kiosk by the library in the spring. He thinks it should cost less than \$500. Mr. Howland stated that he plans to install the new kiosk by the library in the spring. There was some discussion about this kiosk. Mr. Howland left the meeting.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. After looking at the minutes from the February 28th meeting with the Superintendent, Mr. Miner made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Knee seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.
2. On Wednesday April 4th, the Planning Board has a public hearing scheduled for a LLA Proposal on Daniel Horsburgh's property on Beede Hill Road. Mr. Knee explained the purpose of this lot line adjustment is to move a lot line so that the house sits on a smaller lot while the rest of the property is put under a conservation easement. Ms. Miner showed the plans via the projector. The Commission filled out the project comment sheet for the Planning Board.
3. April 7th - Saving Special Places conference.
4. April 10th - The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions are proud to present the 6th workshop in the Board Empowerment Series: A Conversation About Takings. On April 10th (4:30 to 6:30 PM) join Christos, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's municipal training specialist and Massachusetts property and business law attorney for a conversation about where towns' authority to implement vegetated buffer rules ends and governmental "taking" liability begins. From the Buffer Options for the Bay project, Christos will present the legal background of takings, and what a taking is and what a taking is not. The presentation will include how to set up municipal regulations in your community so that they are not a taking and how to talk with those in your community.
5. April 21st - Roadside cleanup around Earth Day. Mr. Cooper is helping out with this effort.
6. The Commission has paid a \$100 deposit to the Town Attorney (held in escrow) for the title review of the Bolduc property (parcel 04-018). This deposit came out of the LUCT Fund. The Purchase and Sales Agreement has been signed. The Public Hearing to discuss this purchase is scheduled for April 19th. Ms. Wolfe will post the notice. For closing, we will need one of the Selectman to sign the closing documents and a copy of the minutes from the Board meeting authorizing him

doing so. Also, we will need the authority of the Selectmen to consummate the purchase (copy of warrant article and vote thereon).

7. Mr. Knee made a motion to pay the legal fees for the title review of \$246.00 out of the LUCT Fund. Ms. Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0. Ms. Miner stated that there will be more fees after the closing.
8. Payment for a \$264.12 invoice from NE Barricade will be taken out of the Forest Management Fund. This was decided at a previous meeting when there was a motion to allow the expenditure for wayfinding signs.
9. Mr. Knee has been in contact with the Road Agent about installing the wayfinding signs for the trails. Mr. Holmes said that he just needs to know where to put them and he can get them in after the ground thaws. Mr. Knee had a letter prepared with photos detailing where he would like the wayfinding signs to be located.
10. Ms. Miner made a motion for herself, Ms. deBeer, and Mr. Cooper to be reimbursed for the Saving Special Places registration fee totaling in \$180 (all three combined). The amount should be taken out of the operating budget under the training and conferences line item. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0. Ms. Wolfe will submit reimbursement forms to the Selectmen's office.
11. NHDES Public Drinking Water - NHDES will hold its 2018 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on Thursday, May 17, at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. This year's conference will feature a total of 18 presentations on research from Dartmouth concerning health impacts associated with arsenic exposure PFAS and other emerging contaminants, legislative updates involving drinking water, projects related to source water planning, land conservation, and community engagement and many more interesting source protection topics. Registration is \$65.

F. OTHER BOARDS

1. Zoning Board

- a. Due Dates – Ms. Wolfe will update the submission deadlines for Zoning Board applications so that the Commission will always have an opportunity to comment.

2. Planning Board

- a. Ms. Wolfe quickly updated the Commission about the Kasher Corp subdivision applications on Copp Drive. The Planning Board has a scheduled site walk for the project on April 14th. There was some discussion about the application.
- b. There was some discussion about the New Hampshire Renaissance Faire. The applicant will need to hire a wetland scientist to delineate the wetlands.

G. TRAILS and OPEN SPACE

1. There was some brief discussion about the proposed Oak Ridge South Trail through the School District's property.
2. Ms. Miner announced that trailfiner.net has been funded for another year.
3. Phil Auger (from SELT) is looking for Fremont's assistance in curtailing motorized vehicle use on the trails. It has been suggested that the Commission should send out a friendly note to the abutters of the Cooperage Forest and simply

ask for their help with solving this problem. Mr. Cooper volunteered to write this letter.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

1. LRAC Report – available in the Land Use Department

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Knee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Ms. Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

L. Next Meeting: May 7, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant