

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

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

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2018. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0. Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the site walk minutes of May 12, 2018. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0. Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the forest walk minutes of May 16, 2018. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

C. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Miner stated that she has no updates for the Forest Management Plan. They are still waiting for the updated plan from forester Charlie Moreno. It is Ms. Miner's understanding that he is pretty close to finishing. Mr. Knee explained Mr. Moreno is going to be the project manager for the next timber harvest. There was some discussion about this process.

D. LAND USE BOARDS

1. Ms. Wolfe explained to the Commission that there has been a new variance request for the Zoning Board. The applicant is requesting relief from Article XII Section 1201.5 of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance to have a garage 62 feet from a wetland area at 110 Gristmill Road, Map 2 Lot 173-18. The Commission had the following comment for the Zoning Board, *Because of the limited information submitted, the Commission recommends a joint site walk to be held before any decision is made by the Board to provide the information necessary for an educated recommendation.*
2. Three Commission members recently attended a site walk for an active minor site plan application for R. Cooper & Sons Paving at 225 Main Street (Map 3 Lot 150). Commission member Pat deBeer submitted a comment letter concerning this application to the Planning Board. Mr. Knee explained that the lot is flat from the road and then there is a steep down grade to the Exeter River. He summarized that there was some discussion about the setback at the site walk and that they discussed with the buyer that the setback should be marked in three locations. If the buyer wants to expand the paved area, then they will need additional permitting. There was also discussion about adding curbing in the back to keep water from draining in that direction. Mr. Knee stated that he felt that if the site is kept as-is, and the setback is not affected, then there is nothing the Commission can really say. However, if there are proposed changes to the site, the Commission has issue with the proposal. Ms. Wolfe stated that if the applicant wants to increase the impervious surface on this site they would need to seek a variance from the Zoning Board. There was some discussion about best management practices for stormwater drainage.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Letter from concerned resident

- a. The Commission received a letter from a concerned resident (see attached) concerning 60-70 acres of undeveloped land near the Fremont-Danville boarder on Sandown Road. Ms. Miner summarized the letter and the resident's concerns. The owner's name is Nate Brown. Mr. Cooper asked if Mr. Brown has expressed interest in putting this land in conservation. Ms. Miner did not think so. She suggested checking the Open Space ranking for this property. Mr. Cooper offered to reach out to Mr. Brown. There was some discussion about asking Mr. Brown if he has considered selling a conservation easement on the property to a local conservation organization.
2. Rockingham County Conservation District Letter
 - a. The Commission reviewed a letter from the Rockingham County Conservation Dsitric (see attached). RCCD is looking for three to five towns in the county to evaluate their municipal land for invasive plant species. Mr. Knee did not think Fremont was in the running for this pilot program. He felt that if some Commission and Open Space folks went out they could keep these invasive species under control themselves.

F. WAYFINDING SIGNS

1. Mr. Cooper reported to the Commission that the Road Agent, Leon Holmes, has been very busy. There was some discussion about what Mr. Holmes needs from the Commission to get these signs installed. There was also some discussion about notifying the nearby landowners of where these signs will be installed.

G. CONSERVATION

1. Bolduc Property - subject matter closed. Survey pending input on parcel Map 4 Lot 17 (the parcel to the north).
2. Mr. Knee explained to the Commission that he has spent a lot of time looking through Matthew Thomas's History of Fremont book to look at maps of Tavern Road (Formerly Ridge Road). After doing this research, he came to the conclusion that the locations and names of Tavern Road and Meeting House Road have changed over the years. Mr. Knee did this research while in the process of brainstorming names for the new section of trail. Some ideas he had were, "Depot Road trail" or the "Aja Mahoney trial." Mr. Cooper liked the idea of using the probable historic connection as the trail name. Mr. Knee discussed proposed improvements for the trail: timber stairs, a bridge to be placed on an existing berm, trail markers, and trail signs. Mr. Knee asked for the project to be worked on throughout the summer so that the trail can be ready by September. There was some discussion about having the dedication of the new kiosk and trail at the town barbecue that the library may be hosting in August. There was some discussion about having a trail map ready by that date. The Commission was agreeable to providing the funds for the trail work that needs to be done.
3. Mr. Knee mentioned that it's possible that too many people are parking on Jackie Bernier Drive and that these cars would block logging trucks. Mr. Knee suggested putting a sign in the new kiosk requesting hikers to park across the street at the depot rather than along Jackie Bernier Drive.

H. TRAILS and OPEN SPACE

1. Open space has finished installing the new library kiosk. Unfortunately, after they installed the Lexan, they realized there was a scratch on it. Mr. Howland of Open Space is looking for some input from the Commission on whether or not to return the Lexan. Mr. Cooper stated that he really had to look to find the scratch. The Commission did not feel it was necessary to return the Lexan.

I. Next meeting: July 2, 2018

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Knee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Ms. Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant

Dear Conservation Commission,

It has come to my attention recently that longtime Fremont resident Mr. Nate Brown of Sandown Road (across from Abbott Road) has paid a surveying company with the intention to sell his 60-70-acre property located near the Fremont-Danville border on Sandown Road which extends all the way over to Chester Road.

This property has been open land ever since Fremont was incorporated as a town. It has many unique and historical features to include:

- This property directly borders the Exeter River
- According to the Fremont Town History Book, this property featured a trail that was used by Native Americans
- This property is the home to numerous wildlife species

As a concerned resident of Fremont, I implore the Conservation Commission to speak with Mr. Nate Brown and discuss the option of working with the town to gift/sell the land to the Town of Fremont or a local land trust (i.e. SELT) for conservation purposes.

I have personally witnessed over the last 20 years the continuing regression of the small-town character of Fremont. The construction of housing developments is radically altering the charm of Fremont and is leading to more and more problems such as: crowded schools, deteriorating roadways and overwhelming our public safety services.

If the Conservation Commission truly values the character of Fremont and preserving habitat, they will act on this request immediately to prevent the sale of this land to a developer. Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Concerned Resident
Sandown Road

RECEIVED
MAY 22 2018

BY:CW.....



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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www.rockinghamccd.org

FREE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ON MUNICIPAL WORKING LANDS A PILOT PROJECT

May 16, 2018

To Municipal Boards and Departments:

Municipal working lands, such as stump dumps, fill stockpiles, transfer stations, and town sheds, are often habitats favorable to the growth of invasive vegetation. These invasive species may then be spread to nearby habitats via natural dispersal or may be spread more widely through human activities such as the transfer of fill.

The Rockingham County Conservation District requests letters or emails of interest from towns interested in having their town working lands evaluated for invasive plant species. Selected towns will have their sites evaluated and plans developed with municipal input to prevent the spread of invasive vegetation. Optional herbicide application on up to one acre of invasive vegetation will also be offered as one of the initial steps in management, if appropriate. All services are funded by a grant from the Department of Agriculture Markets and Foods and are offered at no cost to towns and municipalities. Three to five towns will be selected for the initial pilot program, but all letters of interest will be used to evaluate appropriate funding levels for continuation of the program.

Please send a letter of interest to the address above or email to arianna.s@rockinghamccd.org. Include a brief description of the lands that would be evaluated (multiple parcels in a town may be submitted), street address(es), and some indication if it is known that invasive species are a problem and what those species might be. This funding is for working lands only. Road rights-of-way, town forests, and conservation lands do not qualify.

Sincerely,

Arianna Spear
Conservation Technician

Lenny Lord
District Manager