

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

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

Also present: Sam Harris and Dennis Quintal

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2018. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.
- C. ADMINISTRATION
1. Ms. Wolfe informed the Commission that their account summaries are in the packets in front of them. She also informed the Commission that the Town Administrator is looking for their budget proposal for 2019 soon. Mr. Knee made a motion to table discussion about the budget to the next meeting. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.
 2. Ms. Miner announced that there will be a Floodplain Management Workshop July 18th in Rye, NH.
- D. OPEN SPACE
- Open Space member Sam Harris referenced an email Dennis Howland sent out on July 1st with cost estimates of near term projects (see attached). Mr. Harris quickly went through the items on this list. He mentioned that the price of lumber has gone up 25%. Ms. Crane asked how much money the Commission has to spend for the rest of the year. She felt that buying signs would be pretty important. The Commission members took a look at their budget. After some discussion, they realized their operating budget has basically been spent. These upcoming projects that Mr. Howland has described can be paid for with the Forest Management Fund. Ms. Miner summarized what they have used the Forest Management Fund for so far this year. The Commission has about \$3,600 left in this fund, however, Mr. Moreno's proposal for the tree harvest is \$7,100. Ms. Crane stated that the Commission will not get billed for Mr. Moreno's proposal until the Town has received revenue from the tree harvest. Mr. Knee stated that the total for Mr. Howland's projects comes to a little over \$1,000. Mr. Howland might need a little more money than that because he is running out of security screws.
- There was some discussion about how Mr. Howland's project list is basic trail maintenance and that their operating budget should be large enough to cover these kind of expenses. Ms. Miner stated that they asked the budget committee for \$1000 to maintain the town's conservation lands and they were only given \$250. Ms. Crane and Ms. Miner discussed moving the operating budget around to pay for their upcoming costs throughout the year. They will go beyond what they budgeted for in the clerical line item. If the Commission pays all of their dues, the operating budget will be overspent by the end of the year. There was some discussion about the appropriate way to use the Forest Management Fund. Mr. Knee proposed to, at the very least, pay for the board walk on Mr. Howland's

project list this year. Ms. Miner stated that if there is a delay during the harvest, they might need to pay Mr. Moreno for “prep costs” in the amount of \$3,300 before they make their revenue from the harvest. Ms. Miner wanted to be sure that they do not spend the \$3,300. Ms. Miner suggested that there may be enough money from the tree harvest to pay Mr. Moreno and to fund some more of Mr. Howland’s projects. ***Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$370 for Open Space near term projects as outlined in Mr. Howland’s email dated July 1, 2018 with a priority being on the 32-foot board walk for the new trail with the remaining of the \$370 to be used by the judgement of Open Space members over the next three months. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

E. WETLAND PERMIT APPLICATION – SHIRKIN ROAD 2018-01812

Dennis Quintal has completed the Wetlands Permit Application on behalf of the Town. Ms. Wolfe summarized that the Planning Board conditionally approved John Galloway’s site plan for a concrete reprocessing plant in January of 2017. An abutter appealed the decision to the Zoning Board, who upheld the appeal. Mr. Galloway then brought the case to Superior Court where he won his case. As one of his conditions of approval, Mr. Galloway needs his State permitting in place before his plans are signed. To widen Shirkin road to town standard, he needs a Wetlands Permit from NHDES. Mr. Quintal explained that there is about 8,000 square feet of wetland filling proposed, however, on site there will be about 20,000 square feet of new ponds. The road will be 30 feet wide for about 1,350 feet (from the mouth of the road to Mr. Galloway’s driveway). The first 250 feet will be paved while the rest of the road will be gravel. There was some more discussion about the application. Mr. Quintal reminded the Commission that this application will also be reviewed by the Wetlands Bureau.

Mr. Knee expressed that he was concerned about the movement of wildlife under the road – specifically the turtles. He asked if it would be possible for the culverts to be bigger than 18 inches wide. Mr. Quintal explained that the Town requires a minimum of 18 inches. He felt that it would be possible to increase the size of these, however, he did mention that the current culverts are six inches. Mr. Quintal read an email exchange included in the application between him and Kim Tuttle, a NH Fish and Game employee, about methods to protect Blanding’s turtles during construction. After some more discussion about the email exchanges, Mr. Quintal explained that the NHDES takes the Commission’s comments seriously on Wetland Permit applications. Mr. Knee felt that the application misrepresents the wetland area that will be impacted and that the application should acknowledge that it is a prime wetland. Mr. Quintal suggested that the Commission points out this mistake in their letter to NHDES. Mr. Knee explained that this wetland has already been encroached upon several years ago by an abutter. When authorities discovered the encroachment, it was corrected.

The Commission discussed mitigation. Mr. Quintal stated that when he first met with Eben Lewis about this application, he was told that mitigation is not generally required for widening a Town road. He felt that the Commission could request that DES require mitigation, however, because the wetlands are on Town owned land, the mitigation should be at the Town’s expense. Ms. Crane stated that the Town would not be widening the road if it was not for this commercial entity. Mr. Quintal felt that neither the Town nor the applicant would pay for mitigation at this point. Ms. Crane asked about the current culverts under Shirkin Road. Mr. Quintal stated that there is one six inch culvert and two twelve inch

culverts. The plan proposes the same number of culverts, just larger at eighteen inches. Mr. Quintal requested that if the Commission sends a comment letter to DES if he could also get a copy of that letter. The Commission determined that they have until July 27th to submit their comments to DES.

The Commission went through some corrections they wanted to make to the application. There was some discussion about impervious surfaces and traffic. Each of the members wrote some comments they had about the application. Mr. Knee stated that he needs time to think about his comments. Ms. Crane suggested that they circulate their comments via email and then have a special meeting to discuss them. Ms. Wolfe felt that this is fine as long as all discussion takes place in a legally noticed public meeting. Ms. deBeer stated that she would like to do some research before their special meeting. Ms. Wolfe suggested that they have their special meeting on July 18th (the same night as a Planning Board meeting) so that they would not need a key to get in the building. They would meet upstairs and take their own minutes. Mr. Quintal left at 9:08 pm.

F. LAND USE BOARDS

1. Ms. deBeer joined the Zoning Board on a site walk on July 1st. This site walk was for a variance request for 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. Ms. deBeer stated that the size is more like a barn than a garage. She felt that the body of water that is within 100 feet of the proposed structure is a vernal pool. There was some discussion about how wetland areas are defined. Ms. deBeer stated that the property is surrounded by vernal pools and wetlands and there really is not a better spot for the garage on the property. Mr. Knee asked if there was a way that the applicant could construct a berm that would divert runoff from getting in the wetland. Ms. Miner drafted a comment sheet for the Zoning Board that requested such a structure and for the Board members to look at DES best stormwater management practices.
2. Ms. Wolfe stated that the R. Cooper & Sons Paving site plan application at 225 Main Street (Map 3 Lot 150) has been continued by the Planning Board again. Ms. Miner has received a phone call from abutter Marge Rislove who has some health issues related to fumes from petroleum based products.

G. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Commission has received their updated Forest Management Plan from forester Charlie Moreno. The Land Use Office has a hard copy and an electronic copy of the document. Ms. Miner read through the tree harvest proposal. The estimated cost of this proposal is \$7,100. Mr. Knee felt that the Town would make \$10,000 to \$12,000 in revenue from the tree harvest. ***Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the proposal as written. After some discussion, Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

H. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

1. Trail naming – The Commission recently got an email from Open Space member Dennis Howland about naming the trails in Oak Ridge North. There was a consensus that the trail names are great and that the Conservation Commission supports whichever names the Open Space folks decide to go with.

I. NEXT MEETING: Special meeting on July 18, 2018 and regular meeting on August 6, 2018

J. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant

To : FCC

Fr: D Howland

Subj: Near Term Projects

Date: July 1, 2018

There are about 5 near term projects that could be tackled if the CC approves the funding. The list below is a brief synopsis with the dollar amount. After that is a more detailed narrative. Although I have made my estimates reasonably complete, there are always misc costs that creep in, so I have added in 5% to 10% to account for this. In addition, prices for pressure treated lumber have risen dramatically in the last few months, sometimes increasing 25%. Obviously, we will do everything to keep costs as low as possible.

Since we do not yet have a name for the new trail across the old school property , I will simply call that the New Trail.

- 1. Boardwalk for the New Trail - two sections **\$ 545**
 - a. 32 ' = \$ 240 (Could just do this section to start.)
 - b. 40' = \$ 305

- 2. New Trail Steps - 4' wide, 3' deep, 22" elevation = **\$ 125**

- 3. Terracing at Library kiosk - one level = **\$ 50**

- 4. Signage for New Trail - Should do at least "a" and "b" to start.
 - a. Signpost at beginning of trail at top of steps = \$ 17.50
 - b Signpost at intersection of new trail and Ridge = \$ 17.50 **\$ 35**
 - c. Signpost at intersection of the end of New Trail and Tavern Rd. add \$17.50
 - d. Enhanced with Voss trail name and arrow signs - add \$ 200
 - total \$255**

- 5. Salmon Trail Signage **\$ 65**

- 6. Marsh Trail Improved signage at intersection of Marsh and Ridge. Cost here does not include VOSS ARROWS which may be purchased above in 4 d. **\$ 35**

NOTE: Security Screws - It is likely we will run out of security screws if we attempt all of the above.

Near Term Project Narrative

1. Boardwalk - Continuous boardwalk consisting of 2"x10"x12' PT planks laid on top of 4"x6"x32" PT timbers. Planks would be staggered. Fastened with 3 1/2' outdoor screws. Boardwalk to have two straight sections; one 32' and one 40', with slight angle (20 to 30 degrees) between the two. 32' section could be done first.
2. Steps - Essentially 3 terraced areas stacked on top of each other, each 4' wide and 3' deep, built out of 6"x6" landscape timbers with one extra timber at top. Total rise = 4 x 5.5 inches = 22 inches. Timbers fastened with 10" timber lok screws. Steps could be angled up the slope to account for remaining vertical displacement. It is assumed we will not need to anchor this into the ground.
3. Terracing at Library Kiosk - If we assume the "terrace" would extend 30" out from the posts, then we need to account for 9" of slope, and that is just setting on, and not in, the soil. That height is too much for one step up. I suggest placing a 2"x4" on its side and securing it to the posts. This would take care of about 3" of slope. Then we sandwich a 4"x6" and a 2"x4" to use for the "terrace" perimeter giving us one level 5' wide by 30" deep and taking care of the other 6" of slope. A couple of 12" galvanized spikes would help secure it into the ground. To fill inside, we can probably get something from the highway department. (need about 6 to 7 cubic ft)
4.
 - a. Single 4x4 post at top of steps with Town Forest Ordinance and New Trail Name sign. (could be routed to start)
 - b. Single 4x4 post with two routed arrows on it. This could be seen as temporary. This could be a double post sign, which would include the Ridge Trail name as well as the New Trail Name and 3 arrows
 - c. If we assume that the new trail ENDS where it intersects Tavern Rd and the rail trail, then the sign post here could be a single post sign. This could have the Town Forest Ordinance sign on it as well as the New Trail Name and an arrow. (Instead, it could be a double post sign without the Town Forest Ordinance on it but signage for direction up Tavern is TBD and cost is TBD.)
 - d. The rest of Oak Ridge South uses Voss name signs and arrows.

\$40 set up fee, signs about \$16.50 each. So four signs would total about \$105 plus shipping. (\$10 flat shipping fee for signs including arrow signs). Ten arrows would be about \$65.
5. Salmon Trail signage
 - a. Intersection of Salmon and Bobcat - 4x4 post, and 3 routed arrows
 - b. Intersection of Salmon and old trail in from Post 3 - 4x4 post with two routed arrows and some routed signage indicating other path is WET
 - c. At top of ridge by bench = 2 x 4 post with two arrows
 - d. At intersection where Salmon trail comes down off the ridge and meets the old road. - 4x4 post with 2 arrows (could be 2x4 perhaps)
6. At the south end of the Marsh trail, where it meets back up with the Ridge trail, we would replace the existing signpost with a double post sign, Ridge trail sign, Marsh Trail Sign and three arrows. We have the extra Marsh and Ridge trail signs but we are short Voss Arrows.