

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

Present: Chair Leanne Miner, Member Rich Cooper, and Member Pat deBeer

Also present: Open Space members Dennis Howland and Sam Harris

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. There was some discussion about the minutes of July 2, 2018 and some minor amendments made to the special meeting minutes of July 18, 2018. There was no motion to accept either set of minutes.

C. OPEN SPACE

1. Mr. Howland was present to update the Commission on how Open Space would like to use the \$370 that they were approved to spend. Mr. Howland announced that Open Space hopes to install a boardwalk in Oak Ridge South. He also informed the Commission that they would like to install another Town Forest Ordinance sign, some arrow signs, and some trail name signs. All of these proposed expenses relate to the new trail. Mr. Howland also discussed installing new stairs on the trail. He estimated it would cost about \$100 to install these stairs. They currently do not have room for this expense in the budget.

Mr. Howland stated that Open Space has a couple ideas for naming the new trail. One idea is "Ridge Trail." Another idea is to combine the new trail with the existing road and name it as one trail. Ms. deBeer mentioned it was a high priority for Mr. Knee to honor Ija Mahoney. There was some discussion about making the new trail an interpretive trail in honor of Ija Mahoney. Ms. Miner stated that she did not personally have an opinion about what to name the new trail, but they might want to chat with Mr. Knee and get his input.

Mr. Howland moved on to Oak Ridge North. He would like a couple of posts on each end of the new trail and some arrow signs throughout the trail. He would also like a sign to point out to hikers that the path between the new trail and Tavern Road is very wet. Between Oak Ridge South and Oak Ridge North, Mr. Howland estimated these improvements will cost a little less than \$310. The proposed stairs in Oak Ridge South are not included in this estimate. Ms. Miner stated that she did not have any issue with Mr. Howland's plan to use the \$370. She stated that it is possible that there is money in the Commission's residual fund to pay for the stairs.

There was some discussion about reimbursing Mr. Howland for the Leopold benches that he built and installed in the Town Forest. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve up to \$140 to reimburse Mr. Howland for the materials used for the Leopold benches from an account to be determined. The motion was never

completed. There was some discussion about dedicating a Leopold bench to Ija Mahoney. There was also some discussion about being better organized keeping track of expenditure approvals. Mr. Howland also presented some ideas he had about naming Oak Ridge North. Some example names were, “Bob Cat Trail,” “Beaver Trail,” “Salmon Trail,” and “Whale Trail.” Mr. Howland mentioned that another priority could be buying some new maps for the trail kiosks. There was a brief discussion about Tavern Road.

D. ADMINISTRATION

1. Review budget submittal for 2019.

- a. Ms. Miner explained to the Commission that they have asked for \$4,000 more in their 2019 budget proposal than what was approved in 2018. They have asked for \$125 in brochures and maps of the Town Forest. Ms. Miner mentioned that the library is going to start providing backpacks for children to rent to explore the town trails. Ms. Miner thought it would be nice for the Commission to provide trail maps with the backpacks. They have asked for \$400 for UV printing and high quality mapping for the six kiosks around town. This is accounting for \$50 per kiosk. Ms. Miner stated that she accounted for the annual Saving Special Places conference, the annual NH Association of Conservation Commissions meeting, and wetland trainings to ask for \$250. They have asked for \$530 to pay their dues to various associations. Ms. Miner explained she asked for \$1000 for their residual budget. They money in this budget typically goes towards appraisals. They have also asked \$1,500 for their conservation projects line item. The total budget is \$5,800.

There was some discussion about getting a separate line item for appraisals. There was also some discussion about the Land Use Change Tax fund.

2. CORRESPONDANCE

- a. NHDES – Applicant on Abbott Road for permission to restore wetland area after illegally filling in this wetland area.

3. The NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting is on November 3, \$60 each. Ms. Miner stated that they should all go to this event.

E. PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. NHDES Widening of Shirkin Road – Comment letter from the Commission was submitted to DES.
2. Wetland Forestry Notification for Prime Wetland Waiver Request for logging purposes. The Commission was granted an extra 14 days to comment on this application.

F. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Ms. Miner received a phone call from Charlie Moreno who has been on vacation. He will begin preparing the forest for harvest very soon.

G. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

1. Ms. Miner wanted the Commission members to think about objectives/projects for year.

H. WETLAND FORESTY NOTIFICATION

1. Ms. DeBeer explained that it used to be that applicants had to file for a major impact Dredge and Fill permit to do any logging in a prime wetland. Now applicants only need to file for a waiver through DES. Mr. Cooper stated that he used to know Mr. Brown, the applicant for this DES waiver. The Commission looked at a map of the parcel in question. Eric Oxman, who put together the application, submitted an additional letter with the application detailing the recreational value of the project. After some discussion, the Commission members did not have any issues with the application. The Commission members felt it would be nice to see the site before the harvest. Ms. deBeer wanted to note that the proposed harvest is near the Exeter River, a 4th order river. She felt that the Shoreland Protection Act would apply to this project. She did not feel this proposal would have a major impact on the river. Ms. Miner typed up a comment letter for DES.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ms. deBeer asked if there was an update about the property owned by Ms. Boylin, the parcel between the Bolduc property recently purchased by the Commission and a parcel owner by the School. This property abuts Oak Ridge. Ms. Miner will add this item to the agenda for their next meeting.

J. NEXT MEETING: Regular meeting on September 10th

K. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe
Land Use Administrative Assistant