

Fremont Conservation Commission  
Fremont Town Hall  
Fremont, NH

Present: Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, member Rick Cooper, and member Cindy Crane.

Also Present: Open Space Chair Dennis Howland

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2018 and July 18, 2018 as discussed and amended at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Knee seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.
  2. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2018 with one amendment. Mr. Knee seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.
  3. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of August 22, 2018. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.
- C. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
1. The Commission reviewed their budget submittal for 2019. Ms. Miner is going to the Board of Selectmen meeting this week to discuss their proposal. In their operating budget they have \$184 left for clerical, \$170 left for training and conferences, and \$530 left for association memberships. Ms. Miner expects to go through the entire operating budget by the end of the year. For the Land Use Change Tax fund, they currently have a \$204,645 balance. They have roughly \$1,200 left in the residual fund and \$3,300 in the forest management fund. The Aja Mahoney fund has \$10,000.
  2. Calendar of Events
    - a. November 3<sup>rd</sup> NHACC Annual Meeting – The NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting is on November 3, \$60 each. ***Ms. Miner made a motion to use the \$180 left in the conferences line item to pay for herself, Mr. Cooper, and Ms. deBeer to go to this conference. Mr. Knee seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.***
    - b. Ms. Miner made an announcement: *“Fall Foliage Hike on Saturday, October 20th at 1:00 pm. We will be hiking in the Oak Ridge Town Forest NORTH section, and will be previewing a NEW TRAIL, the Salmon Ridge Trail. We will gather in the Oak Ridge North Parking lot on Tavern Road, about 1/2 mile South of North Road. We will plan to conduct the hike that day but if we get really nasty weather, we will use Sunday, October 21st as a rain date (same time).”*
- D. REPORT OF OPEN SPACE
1. Mr. Howland reported that they finished up constructing the new board walk on Friday. He felt that it came out nicely.
  2. The new kiosk at the library is now complete. There is a new map and new directions posted at this kiosk.
  3. There is some signage for the Depot trail that he would like to install. He plans to put a single post sign just off the Rail Trail with the trail name and Town Forest Ordinance. He would also like to install a post at the intersection of the Depot

Trail and the Ridge Trail. He would like to get both of these signs in before October 13<sup>th</sup>, the date of the Library Barbeque. He does not need any money for either of these signs.

4. For the Salmon Ridge trail, he has some final clearing and painted blazes to do. He has one sign to install at the intersection of Bobcat trail, another at the top of the ridge by the bench, another at the bottom on the ridge, and another to warn hikers that the trail back to Tavern Road may be wet. For this signage, he would need about \$18 worth of additional posts.
5. He would like to build two more Leopold benches, he already has the materials on hand, except for some rebar if they want to anchor the benches into the ground. This cost would be about \$8.
6. Open Space would like to put in a double-post sign at the east end of the Marsh Trail where it meets the Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge South. They would need an additional \$50 for this project. If Mr. Howland shops soon, he can do the project for \$40 with a Lowe's coupon.
7. ***Ms. Miner made a motion to approve \$290 for expenditure to reimburse Mr. Howland \$140 for the Leopold benches (motion not completed at the last meeting), \$100 for the new stairs Oak Ridge South trail, and \$50 for the double post sign at the east end of the Marsh Trail where it meets the Ridge Trail from the residual fund. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.***
8. Mr. Howland mentioned that the back of one of the Leopold benches says, "Dedicated to Aja Mahoney."
9. Mr. Knee presented an idea for doing an interpretive trail based off the children's book, "Because of an Acorn." The idea is to have a page from each story on a yard sale sign to guide families through the trail. There would also be a scavenger hunt activity to accompany the story. When the kids finish the activity, they would receive a felt acorn made by his wife. Mr. Knee thought this would be a good activity to host on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Library Barbeque. He felt this activity would take about a half hour. Mr. Knee mentioned that the yard sale signs are reusable if they want to do another storybook trail in the future. There was some discussion about using some of the Aja Mahoney fund to pay for this project and advertise the event in her name. Signs/kit could be gifted to the library for public use in the future.

## E. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS

### 1. BUDGET PROPOSAL

- a. Ms. Miner commented that she is pretty sure that funds for appraisals can come from the LUCT fund. By doing this, it would lower their budget proposal for 2019. For trail maintenance, Ms. Miner originally asked for \$1,600. They have asked for \$400 for UV printing for the kiosks, \$610 for trainings and conferences, \$500 for membership dues, and \$500 for clerical help working on the webpages. There is \$9,000 left (after the storybook trail) in the Aja Mahoney fund. Ms. Miner asked if \$1,500 was good for trail maintenance. She stated that in 2018 they spent \$1,600 on this line item. They decided to propose \$1,600 again this year. There was some discussion about paying a consultant to lead a bioblitz next year.

There was also some discussion about setting up a Conservation Commission table at the Library Barbeque on October 13th.

2. CONSERVATION

- a. Ms. Miner informed the Commission that things are moving forward with the Brett property. SELT anticipates grant decisions Nov-Dec. The fair market value of the portion of the property is approximately \$245,000. It is anticipated that the Town will be asked to pay approximately \$122,000 with the remainder coming from NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program. Details will be provided by SELT and all information/proposal will go through the public meeting and hearing processes before the town pays anything.
- b. Jack Mullen is applying for a NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easement (underway) and the NHDES Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program (ARM). The Commission provided him with a letter of support.
- c. The Commission had previously talked about writing a letter to Boylan about her property at Spruce Swamp/South of Oak Ridge South.

3. NHDES PERMITTING

- a. The Commission previously met and commented on the NHDES Wetlands Application to widen Shirkin Road. A comment letter from the Commission was submitted to DES. Since then, DES has asked for additional information from the applicant.
- b. NHDES recently approved a driveway and culvert for Perry Builders at Thunder Road.
- c. NHDES has also recently approved a Wetlands Forestry Notification & Prime Wetland Waiver for the Brown property off Sandown Road. This approval came out on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

4. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a. Ms. Miner has reached out to Forester Charline Moreno but has not heard back from him.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- a. There was some discussion about the Brown property and about a property off Main Street near the land the Ladd's used to own. These could be possible projects for 2019.
- b. Ms. Miner also mentioned getting the rules of submittal for Planning and Zoning applications updated.

G. NEXT MEETING:

1. Ms. Miner asked if the Commission was open to starting their meetings at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm. The intention would be for the meetings to end earlier in the evening. The Commission members were fine with this idea. Ms. Miner will ask Ms. deBeer how she feels.
2. The next regular meeting on October 1, 2018.

H. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS

1. The Commission reviewed the plans for the Barthelemy waiver request at 154 Martin Road (Map 6 Lot 21). The Commission members looked at the driveway on the plans. The Commission members were unsure why the driveway is in the 100 foot wetland buffer.
2. The Commission members reviewed the plans for Ragnar Original Innovations Site Plan (Map 2 Lot 151-2). The Commission did not have any comments.

3. The Commission reviewed the plans for the Variance request for Ragnar Original Innovations (Map 2 Lot 151-2). The Commission did not have any comments.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Wolfe  
Land Use Administrative Assistant