

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

Present: Chair Leanne Miner, Members Cindy Crane, Pat DeBeer, Rich Cooper, and Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement

Also Present: Open Space Chair Dennis Howland

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order 6:32 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. The members reviewed the minutes of October 1, 2018. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0-0.
- C. NEXT MEETING:
 1. The next regular monthly meeting will be on December 3rd at 6:30 pm. Note time change.
- D. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
 1. Budget – The Budget Committee recommended \$3,564 which is \$124 less than the budget requested. With decrease in Copies/Office Supplies from \$125 to \$75 and decrease Postage from \$75 to \$1 to keep that line open.
 2. Administration – Annual Report – Ms. Miner will send out a draft to each member for review.
 3. Workshops UNH – Wetlands, Taking Action for Wildlife Newsletter, Ms. Miner was wondering if anyone was interested. Mr. Cooper was interested but was concerned that it is an advanced workshop. Ms. Miner said it was reading maps, understanding shrub scrub and other forms of wetlands. Ms. DeBeer stated that the workshop was good for everyone interested in wetlands and that a lot of people use it for continuing education with the certificate.
 4. Calendar of Events and Announcements
 - a. November 3rd NHACC Annual Meeting at Pembroke Academy with speaker Dr. Richard Primack from Boston University
 - b. December 7 (Friday) – Action for Wildlife – Laconia NH Climate Change Ms. Miner and Mr. Cooper are interested in going. Ms. Miner did not see a fee to attend but said they are asking for a donation of \$20 to attend, she will be looking into this. (fish and game cooperative extension) Ms. Miner said they will revisit this at the December meeting.
 - c. March 26 Invasive Species 7PM Library – The Garden Club is sponsoring this event and they have scheduled a speaker from UNH Cooperative Extension. Ms. Miner would like CC and OS to attend.
 - d. May 2019 UNH Cooperative Extension COVERTS – This is a 3 1/2-day workshop/training in the field, learning the latest concepts and issues in wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, land conservation and effective outreach. There is a \$50 registration fee and approximately 40 hours of volunteer outreach during the coming year and it may be volunteer work you are already doing.

E. REPORT FROM OPEN SPACE: Mr. Howland submitted a summary of accomplishments and future projects.

2018 Accomplishments:

The next Open Space meeting is Tuesday November 13, 2018. Mr. Howland discussed getting information ready for the town report.

Open Space has done 2 trails this year: Salmon Ridge and Depot. Some things done were clearing and blazing on both trails. There was also a lot of signage and a boardwalk put in. Mr. Howland wanted to give a shout-out to all the volunteers that have worked so hard. They always had a group of 5-6 people which make so many things possible.

There are 4 benches out on the trails now, the last one was done about a week ago on the Marsh Trail. The others are at Depot, Barred Owl and Salmon Ridge Trails. They put in a 14' bridge on Beaver Trail and improved the signage at the intersection of Marsh and Ridge Trails, it is consistent with the signage at Oak Ridge. They did 2 hikes, snow shoe and fall hike, the volunteers did lots of trail maintenance, they just go and do maintenance without having it planned or asked for.

The maps for 3 new trails, they need to talk about having them reproduced for Glen Oaks and Barred Owl as these were obsolete. Each kiosk should have a large overview map approximately 17 x 22 showing where all the town trails are located. They can also put QR codes at each kiosk instead of trail maps that would allow people to see the other trails from each location. Oak Ridge North and Glen Oaks should have no changes in the near future, so they can print final maps. There is the potential to extend the Oak Ridge South Trail, so Mr. Howland recommended only printing a limited number of maps for this trail until it is finalized, then have the maps printed professionally. Mr. Howland will check on prices for larger maps for the kiosk from the printer. Ms. Miner would like to have the maps put out for residents to use while hiking.

2019 Future projects:

Maps which were already discussed.

Would like the website and maps on website to be updated. Ms. Miner would like to see the members work as a group and then present it to her. Mr. Howland, Mr. Harris and Ms. DeBeer will work on the Open Space information and then bring it to Ms. Miner for final review to see if there is any overlap with Conservation Commission. They have done the work already, so Mr. Howland said they will review what is done before they present it to Ms. Miner.

Mr. Howland would like to reconsider extending the boardwalk to the original length planned and bring the Depot Trail closer to the library. The Bolduc property allows the trail to be extended now. Everyone thinks this is a good idea and that it will be easy to lay in.

They would like to look at building a bridge or other improved water crossing at the stream below the big beaver dam at Oak Ridge North's SW corner. There are rocks currently to cross so there may not be a need for enhancement, but there is a possibility of building a bridge across the property if there is a problem with the water. Most of this is easy to lay in and Mr. Howland has

procured some plastic culverts from the road agent so there would still be some cost for materials and fasteners.

When Bobcat Trail was first put in, there was a section of the trail that would have crossed about 20' of private property, so Open Space decided to go around. This made the trail miss ½ of a really nice esker to walk along. This corner is in the southwest on the Bobcat Trail, the Commission would like to revisit reclaiming the esker trail in Oak Ridge North, but some work is required to make it usable. They will look at this again to see if cutting the trail into the side of the slope would work or if there are other options that would work.

The Barred Owl Trail needs to be cleaned of downed trees and leaners, but this is something that is not for someone to do alone. There is some ongoing debate about which direction the sign on the east end of Barred Owl should face, adding another sign to the other side of the road and moving some of the signs are options. Ms. Miner said to buy the additional post and put it in.

Open Space would like to do some work cleaning the trails on the Philips Exeter property, but the board only meets once a year, and this is not something that will be on their agenda. Ms. DeBeer suggested getting in contact with the grounds keeper to inquire about doing some trail cleaning. Conservation and Open Space cannot do this as a town group.

Mr. Howland mentioned that he is keeping in contact with SELT regarding Kelleher and Garrison Memorial Forest, after they logged the area it was left a mess, but when they are ready to start work again Mr. Howland is ready to work with them to connect the trails and make sure there is access through the coeprage. He said that SELT is busy and he understands it could be a while.

There was some discussion and agreement that Open Space will present a proposal to the Commission for approval of funds as needed. For planning purposes, a budget of \$249 for conservation purposes and \$100 from residual budget and other funds that are available could be discussed for projects that come up. Mr. Howland questioned logging funds, but Ms. Miner said that probably would not happen as there would be a conflict for the funds with the invasive species work to be done.

Ms. Miner is looking to plan a hike in November to coincide with the lecture Matthew Thomas is giving at the library regarding the history of the B52 in Spruce Swamp. Open Space is thinking about doing a winter snow shoe hike.

F. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS

1. CONSERVATION

- a. Brett - SELT anticipates grant decisions Nov-Dec. There has been no response regarding the grant decisions. Ms. Miner will follow up with Dwaine Hyde.
- b. Mullen – Applications in for NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easement and the NHDES Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program (ARM). Ms. Miner will contact them, should have heard back in Nov.
- c. Boylan - Spruce Swamp/South of Oak Ridge South. There is no movement on this project, this will be something for next year.

- d. Ladd (Former) - they owned a lot property and they now own a small piece in the middle of Glen Oaks. They have no access to this land. The Ladd property was purchased by Kasher Corporation. Conservation and Open Space would like to contact them about this piece of property to potentially add to the town forest.
- e. Update to rules of submittal for Planning and Zoning applications. Ms Miner spoke to Ms. Wolfe about doing this.

2. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a. Update (if any) from Forester Charline Moreno. No update

3. NHDES PERMITTING

- a. NHDES Wetlands Application to widen Shirkin Road. Pending response to NHDES request for additional information. No updates

b. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS – Updates on applications of interest

- a. No updates

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS

- a. Incoming None at this time.

2. 2019 Projects

- a. Bolduc and Ellis School Addition – Survey, Blaze, Conserve – This is a project that Mr. Knee wanted done. Mr. Cooper will take over and follow up with this information and get it to Mr. Knee while SELT may have someone that they work with who is a good forester. Cost for survey and blaze. Leanne asked Rich and Pat to get all information and bids for this and bring to Commission. Survey both properties, and put easement on them to conserve and blaze. Ms. Miner also suggested hiring a wetlands person walk out and photograph the area to make informational signs. Ms. DeBeer thinks that it is more important to do a wetlands study as to where things have changed from the Forest and Wildlife Management plan, because animals move and it would be a guide plan for selective logging. It was always planned to go back and get this done, it is now 390 acres total. Group to continue discussing prioritization of fund use.
- b. Interpretive Trails and locations of Interest - This is still something being discussed with other projects needing to be done as well.
- c. Invasives Species – Trails. Garden Club – Town Properties. Ms. Miner and Ms. Crane will be working on this for the March meeting. Greg Jordan (UNH Cooperative Extension/County Forester) will be doing the talk and Ms. Miner wanted to know if anyone would like to coordinate a hike. Ms. Crane suggested having the Boy Scouts work with the CC in removing invasive species which would be service hours. Also mentioned was having UNH come to help with their knowledge of how to remove and dispose of invasive species. Ms. Miner and Ms. Crane will coordinate this.
- d. Bolduc property – Leopold benches and interpretive display. When benches were originally put in they were just to relax not to have signage and be too fancy. Signage would be better paid for under Mahoney Fund. Ms. Miner would like the bench on Bolduc property to have signage. Ask

a consultant to give information. Mr. Howland suggested UNH for this. Everyone would like to wait for Mr. Knee to be back to the meetings for a decision on this so it will be tabled to the March meeting.

3. OTHER: Questions about the other property Bolyn may need to speak to Mr. Knee when he gets back. Maybe we could amend to add to the other two properties. Also maybe merge all lots to be one lot. What are the advantages to combining lots already under conservation? Would there be money and what is the benefit? Commission does not think it is something that needs to be done unless there is no cost.
4. Forest and wild life plans

H. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion, it passed unanimously 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk