

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

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

Also Present: Cub Scouts from Pack 1 Den Leader Jason Hart, scouts Logan, William, Kyle; and Luke Hurley from GHEs, Inc

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. The members reviewed the minutes of November 5, 2018. **Ms. Crane made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.**
- C. NEXT MEETING:
 1. The next regular monthly meeting will be on January 7 at 6:30 pm.
- D. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
 1. Budget – Ms. Miner has been reviewing bases and uses for accounts to update and make sure that things are all in the correct line items, to keep the budget accurate.
 2. Administration – Annual Report
 3. Calendar of Events and Announcements
 - a. December 4 (Tuesday) – Potluck Holiday Dinner Library
 - b. December 7 (Friday) – Action for Wildlife – Laconia NH Climate Change
 - c. December 19 (Wednesday) – NHACC Conservation Fund webinar (financial information)
 - d. March 26 (Tuesday) Invasive Species 7 pm Fremont Library – Garden Club Sponsoring
 - e. May 2019 UNH Cooperative Extension COVERTS – This is a 3 ½ -day workshop and field training. There is a \$50 registration fee and approximately 40 hours of volunteer outreach (may be work you are already doing).
- E. REPORT FROM OPEN SPACE
 1. Mr. Howland was not at the meeting but submitted a list of projects for 2019 at the November meeting. The Commission reviewed the list and agreed with the work outlined. They will not be doing any work until the spring. Mr. Cooper got a price of about \$128 for maps for the kiosks. **Ms. Miner made a motion to approve up to \$130 from the budget residual for the purchase of maps for the town forest kiosks in the town forests. Mr. Cooper seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.**
- F. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS
 1. CONSERVATION
 - a. Brett - SELT anticipates grant decisions Nov-Dec. There are still things that they need to finish still so it is moving along. No update currently.

- b. Mullen – Applications in for NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easement and the NHDES Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program (ARM). Do not need input from the Commission for the time being.

2. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a. Forester Charlie Moreno is scheduled to come in January with an updated plan. There was some discussion about hiring a new forest manager consultant. There is a list of names that Ms. Crane and Mr. Cooper will look at, and Mr. Cooper said he would start to contact some to see if there is any interest. Ms. Miner will find out if there is a special process that the town must follow to hire a new consultant. We have a forest management plan but need to hire someone to implement and review it.

3. NHDES PERMITTING – The NHDES Wetlands Bureau reviewed the application to widen Shirkin Road and requested additional information to clarify and complete the application. They have requested potential conservation parcel information from the applicant. Luke Hurley from GHE was at the meeting at the request of Dennis Quintal to help with mitigation. This is required because the impacts are to State designated prime wetlands which have different criteria. Mr. Hurley went to the State (NHDES) and spoke to Eben Lewis and Lori Sommer about mitigation, including land preservation/conservation. The road is already existing and the impact will be on sections of the edges. The amount of disturbance that the applicant estimated is 8,285 square feet and included only wetland that was directly impacted and did not include the buffer. Mr. Hurley said that there is a required \$34,315.08 ARM Fund money which goes back into the aquifer program not to the Town, unless we get a grant from the State to get it back. The applicant could take the money and apply it to the property for land to be conserved, or in lieu of property they can make it a donation to the Town in an ARM fund to hold for future land purchase for the Town. Galloway could buy land and deed it to the Town and the Town will hold the easement (Secretary's note: the Commission has more recently determined this statement to be incorrect). It is difficult to find land holding companies to hold easements on small pieces of property. He also asked if we had any lots for preservation because we need a 10 to 1 ratio (equaling ~2 acres) and it must have similar wetlands on the site. Ms. Miner suggested possibly looking at a list of properties that were identified by the Open Space CTAP report in 2010. Mr. Hurley said that they will evaluate and screen the 90 properties that they are given to research to find any matches. Once they do the research and find the parcels of interest that match, they notify the Town and then it is up to the Town to approach the land owner to see about acquiring the property. There are a few properties that the Town has some interest in that may work. This process will take time and all parties understand this. Mr. Hurley said that he will need an extension for the overall permit, and DES also knows that they will need an extension. Mr. Hurley will ask for a 120-day extension starting the 21st (of December) to start looking into the properties that may work. The extension will cause the process to slow down because the application must have all answers to DES. Mitigation is on this list so that must be addressed at the same time. After a property (to conserve) is agreed on, the DES will then have to approve the mitigation and move forward. DES will put a time frame for purchase of property on the permit. Ms. Miner also asked Mr. Hurley to give an approximate time frame for the process when he gives his review about the properties.

Ms. Crane had concerns about the Blandings Turtles getting killed (along Shirkin Road) because of increased traffic and the possibility of increased speed on the road. Fish and Game will have training for truck drivers about Blandings Turtles, but Ms.

Miner questioned training if there are possibly 50 trucks a day using this road. Any information from Fish and Game will have restrictions for the permit.

Ms. Miner inquired about notifying abutters. Per Hurley, any work done within 20' of any abutters must have written permission. If the abutter does not respond or is against project then we must file for a waiver.

The Commission thanked Mr. Hurley for attending the meeting and he left a 7:50 pm.

4. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS – Updates on applications of interest - None

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS

a. Expanded uses in Aquifer Protection Areas – BMPs (best management practices) and Sources of Potential Contamination, Low Risk uses. Ms. Miner attended a Planning Board meeting and there was some discussion regarding the suggested zoning changes specifically in the Aquifer Protections Areas. Fremont is 100% well water fed. They will inspect the properties in the aquifer visually and monitor for anything that looks like it would need further inspection and monitoring. The Health Officer will get more training in this area. The best management practices would be inspected by the Health Officer. Ms. Miner suggested that after members reviewed the information that they take note of the two upcoming public hearings on this and possibly plan on attending.

b. Updates to the Wetland Regs – Discuss pro-active review. Ms. Miner forwarded an email that Ms. DeBeer sent. Ms. Miner made a comment that the only real change would be that they would only comment when there was a high impact, so after some discussion the Commission agreed that they need to be more active with the Planning Board to assist with anything they need for information.

c. NHDOT – Request for review - Statewide 16165-H - Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee reviewed 11-27-18 and have contacted the Town about any questions or concerns they might have. ERLAC is planning to repave sections of the roads in the Tier 3 and Tier 4 through out District 6. They sent an email asking for any questions or concerns that the Town or Conservation Commission may have with the plans to preserve the existing pavement sections and upgrades. Ms. Miner will reach out to Theresa Walker to get more information on what they are asking from the Conservation Commission.

H. 2019 Projects

- a. Boylan - Spruce Swamp/South of Oak Ridge South.
- b. Ladd (Former)
- c. Update to rules of submittal for Planning and Zoning applications. Leanne suggested that we need to communicate better with the Planning Board and Zoning Board.
- d. Aya Fund – Interpretive Trail planning April 2019 – Viewing platforms.
- e. Invasives Species – Trails. Garden Club – Town Properties.
- f. Warrant Articles – Town Forest designation ... give or designate to the school the land (easement) this may not be ready for the March warrant articles.
- g. Website Update – Files

h. Other

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk