

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

Invited: Chair Leanne Miner; Vice Chair William Knee; Members Cindy Crane, Rich Cooper, Pat deBeer and Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. The members reviewed the minutes of December 3, 2018. **Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the minutes as revised and discussed. Ms. Crane seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0-1.**
- C. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
1. Administration – Ms. Miner has submitted a budget draft and will forward the annual report to the members for review.
 2. Municipal ELink– Ms. Miner wanted to make the members aware of this email with more resources for them to be aware of.
 3. ESRLAC Dues Payment – The committee received the annual report and invoice for \$200 from Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee. **Ms. Miner made a motion to pay the yearly dues of \$200. This motion was seconded by Mr. Cooper and the vote was unanimous 4-0.**
 4. Calendar of Events and Announcements
 - a. *NEW* Deliberative Session Feb 4th. Reschedule Cons Com monthly meeting for Feb 11. The Commission agreed to change the date and will notify Ms. Carlson.
 - b. *NEW* January 8 NHACC Brainstorming Session
 - c. March 26 (Tuesday) Invasive Species 7 pm Fremont Library – Garden Club Sponsoring
 - d. *NEW* April – Invasive Hike
 - 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).
 - f. *NEW* April 6 Saving Special Places – Prospect Mountain High School, Alton NH
 - g. *NEW* The 2019 Northeast Aquatic Biologist Conference will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, February 27 – March 1, 2019. This conference, coordinated by New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) in partnership with member states and EPA, etc. \$190 plus travel and hotel.
- D. REPORT FROM OPEN SPACE – Mr. Cooper reported there is not much to update, that Open Space is not doing a lot of projects currently. He has noticed a lot of vehicles from the men who are marking trees for harvest near the Barred Owl Trail, but he has been walking and everything on the trails looks great. Some clean up on the main trails will need to be done. A lot of the main trail loops are icy. Ms. Miner went hiking and she found the trails well marked and easy to follow. Mr. Cooper said the trails look like they are being well used.

Ms. deBeer mentioned that the Conservation Commission and Open Space are having a snowshoe hike on Saturday February 23rd and it is listed in the Town Newsletter. They are hoping to get to Camp Nasty but may need to go to the Marsh Trail depending on the conditions. She also mentioned that there was some trash on the trail off Tavern Rd.

E. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS

1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a. Forester Charlie Moreno is scheduled to come in February with an updated plan.

2. NHDES PERMITTING –

- a. Shirkin Road Widening - Luke Hurley from GHE contacted Ms. Miner to let the Commission know that he would not be attending this meeting. Mr. Hurley got a 90-day extension to review this information with Lori Sommer and Eben Lewis from NHDES hopefully this week. Ms. Miner provided the CTAP program and reminded Luke Hurley that they would like him to look at the Boylan property even though it was not on the list that he was given. The Commission does not have any other properties for him to review. The final decision will be made by DES regarding the properties. After a short discussion, Ms. Miner and Ms. Crane think sending the money to the State ARM fund would be the best option, Ms. deBeer stated that we do not have to rush and should wait to make a decision until the process is further along with NHDES. It was mentioned that the Town does get money from the State for many projects, most recently the Mullen project that got an ARM Credit Resource Management Grant in the total amount of \$122,000. Horsburgh got a substantial amount and we are looking at the Brett property so the Town has benefited from the State ARM funds and putting this money into this fund would help the State to fund future projects.
- b. There are substantial updates to the State wetland regulations which are listed in the December NHACC newsletter. Ms. deBeer stated that there is a meeting in Concord on Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the Wetlands Bureau. Ms. deBeer said that one of the proposals was to not allow CC to comment on minimum impact projects but some of these have gone on to become major impact projects that need to go to NHDES for permits. If the CC was not allowed to comment on the minimum impact projects, some of these could have been missed.

3. SELT CONSERVATION

- a. Brett – There are no updates, SELT anticipates wetlands grant decisions mid-2019 and the other grant not until 2020 as this is a longer process.
- b. Mullen – This project has been fully funded by ARM grants. Ms. Miner will be sending a letter of Congratulations and thanks to the Mullens for conserving.

4. FREMONT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- a. Boylan - Spruce Swamp/South of Oak Ridge South. Members reviewed the final draft of letter. There were some suggestions to change some grammar and Ms. Miner will make these changes and send the packet through FedEx or the Post Office with some tracking.
- b. Planning and Zoning Board Communications – Ms. Miner was formally approved by the Selectmen to serve on the Planning Board as an Alternate

- member on January 3, 2019. This will allow better communication between the Commission and the Planning Board.
- c. Aya Fund – Interpretive Trail planning April 2019 – There is no update at this time, Mr. Knee is working on some ideas to bring to the Commission for this fund and will begin discussions in April.
 - d. Invasives Species – There was some discussion on beginning to work to remove some invasive species from the trails and other locations in town. The Garden Club would like to do some invasive species eradication around the Museum and Meeting House. Open Space and possibly the Boy/Cub Scouts were mentioned to work for service hours to help remove some of the invasive species that have been found in town. They are hoping to start in April and will be working with the State to help decide which species should be removed and how.
 - e. Warrant Articles – Designation of two properties to the Town Forest – Selectmen Approved this article unanimously. **Ms. Miner made a motion to recommend the Warrant Article to designate lots 04-018 and 02-151-001 as Town Forest. Ms. Crane seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 4-0.**

"ARTICLE #X: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forest, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcels of land to the Oak Ridge Town Forest: the following lots: 4-18, 2-151-1. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Conservation Commission recommends this article X to X. The Budget Committee recommends this article X-X. Majority vote required."

- f. Website Update – Files – There are no updates at this time.
 - g. Ladd (Former Ladd property) - The Commission discussed briefly what the options are if they want to pursue the former Ladd property. This property is land locked with Town owned land, this makes the use of this property limited, but they thought that maybe this could be donated to the Town. The Commission will wait to see how the Boylan property goes and will put this on the agenda in April.
 - h. Miner mentioned the list of properties that Ms. deBeer found to conserve. She will get with Ms. Wolfe about this process to put the easement on. Question on who will be the easement holder. Perhaps SELT could hold the easement on the property near them. They are concerned about the ATV's on the trails but if SELT held the easement they could enforce these things.
5. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS AND LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS –
- a. Aquifer Protection Zoning Ordinance – An email was sent 12/13/18 with the updated ordinances from Ms. Wolfe. There was some confusion about when was the latest update done. The last update was 1/2/19 for the Aquifer Protection District Zoning Ordinance Proposal. There was a lot of discussion on the line items that were changed in the ordinance and what would be allowed or not allowed in the Aquifer Protection District. There was some concern about certain types of businesses that could build and the amount of water that they could acquire and where it would come from and also how and where it would be discharged. A lot of the issues could be covered under some of the other ordinances. The Commission had concerns that chemicals that could be released into the wetlands and cause problems in the future. The members will get the latest update and review again.

- b. Kasher revised their concept and Ms. Wolfe distributed this. There are two more lots than previously proposed. The building locations have not really changed and the well radius has gotten smaller. General concession is it is a better plan with single family homes.
- c. Ragnar Original Innovations Site Plan was continued until the next Planning Board meeting because they got significant comments from the Fire Department and they need time to address these issues. There were also issues with Alteros Energies ongoing construction. Stantec is doing observations there as the issues are being addressed. Stantec is overseeing this project. Ragnar Original Innovations had an environmental report written by GeoInsight, rather than Stantec, because Stantec works for the Town and this would be a conflict of interest.
- d. A subdivision plan was proposed for South Road across from Rock and Pines, about 26 acres applied for 5 lots. This was more of a preprocess for a subdivision.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Wetlands utility maintenance notification by National Grid for power lines. Ms. Miner handed around a map for everyone to review where this would be done.
- 2. Ms. deBeer had some questions on the process of the Conservation Commission going before the Budget Committee, Ms. Miner explained that they need to go before the Committee to explain the reasoning and answer any questions for the Warrant Article proposed by the Conservation Commission and then they will vote on the article.
- 3. Ms. Miner reviewed the budget with the members. The money for the operating budget and the default budget to be voted on at the Budget Committee meeting.

G. LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS - none

H. NEXT MEETING:

- 1. The next regular monthly meeting will be on February 11th at 6:30 pm.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk