

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

In Attendance were Chair Leanne Miner; Vice Chair William Knee; Members Cindy Crane, Rich Cooper, Pat deBeer and Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement. Dennis Howland from Open Space was also present.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. The members reviewed the minutes of January 7, 2019. **Ms. deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Crane seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 5-0.**
 - b. The members reviewed the Special Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2019. **Mr. Knee moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0.**
- C. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
 - a. Administration
 - b. Reimbursement – **Mr. Knee made a motion to reimburse Ms. Miner \$54.66 for printing a poster (approx. \$30) and miscellaneous papers for the budget meeting and deliberative session presentation to come from a fund approved by Ms. Carlson Town Administrator. Ms. Crane seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 5-0.**
 - c. Legislative Update – state and local
 - d. Calendar of Events and Announcements
 - a. February 23 Snowshoe Hike – Ms. Miner will be taking a camera from FCTV to film the hike and put it on the FCTV channel for resident viewing.
 - b. March 14 Social Workshop – Sponsored by NHACC at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, in Greenland. Ms. Miner shared the flyer. Ms. deBeer has signed up for this seminar and Mr. Cooper may also attend. Ms. Miner stated public relations are important.
 - c. March 26 (Tuesday) Invasive Species 7 pm Fremont Library – Garden Club Sponsoring with a guest speaker Greg Jordan. Ms. Crane should be able to get scouts to help and Open Space will be working with the Garden Club.
 - d. April 6 Saving Special Places- Prospect Mountain High School, Alton NH
 - e. June 7 Forest Management Training – UNH Cooperative Extension will be holding their training in our forest. This will be a great place to have their training with an older Forest Management cut to compare to one that is being done presently.
- D. REPORT FROM OPEN SPACE – Mr. Howland presented the Open Space report, he will forward a copy of the minutes to the Conservation Commission. There are not a lot of new projects to report but there are some from last year that they would like to complete.
 - a. Spring Cleaning
 - b. One project from last year is to fix broken signs and clean up.

- c. Lengthen the Depot Trail extending it back toward the Library, but they need to find a viable route near the current board walk. They will be going before the foliage is out to have a better look at the area.
 - d. The OS would like to plan a spring hike and call it the B52 Hike. This hike would start in the Tuck Woods conservation area, cross the Lyons property where there is some wreckage and on to Kelleher where the crash took place. They would like to have people register for this hike, there may need to be a limited amount of people as this hike will be crossing private property (not open to general public). Mr. Howland mentioned speaking to Matthew Thomas about going on the hike to speak to the history this area and the B52. Their thought is to plan the hike at the end of April before the bugs are out, but this will depend on the weather and the condition of the trails.
 - e. There was some discussion about Tavern Road and what could be done about the condition of the road. Mr. Howland will speak to the Road Agent to see if he has any low or no-cost solutions and if there is any extra fill to dump in the mud holes to fix some of the problems.
 - f. They are also thinking about having the Fall Foliage Hike to Loon Pond in the fall. They are not sure of which trails to use and if they are passable. They will look into this.
1. There was a discussion about updating the trail maps to include the new properties. The members agreed to wait until after the town election for the official acceptance of these lots into the Town Forest. Then Ms. deBeer can update the map to include the new properties. There was also some discussion about the type and cost of the maps to be printed. They decided to print 24x30 and 11x17 maps to be placed in the kiosks. These will be printed at Staples as it is much more reasonably priced. **Ms. Miner made a motion to approve Open Space to spend up to \$250 for high quality printing of maps for each forest at the kiosks and some lower quality town forest maps to be spent from Conservation Projects. This was seconded by Mr. Knee and the vote was unanimous 5-0.**
 2. Ms. deBeer found that at the Meeting House Road Oak Ridge South kiosk someone had carved the plastic. There was some discussion about this but no decisions were made.
 3. Last week Mr. Howland hiked to check the trail to Camp Nasty, they were good last week, but the path could use a little work to clear it better. He will go check the trail a day or so before the hike on February 22 to make sure the ice is solid for hiking and decide if this is possible. He also mentioned that Camp Nasty is falling over and will soon be down. They spoke at last meeting at the Library to carpool to the rail trail. By starting there, this would take off about 1-mile total (1/2 mile each way).

E. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS

a. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- i. Update – Mr. Cooper reported that the logging should have begun today, Monday February 11, as the equipment was moved in on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Leclair said it usually takes about 3-4 weeks to do a cut of this size. Some markings have been done in preparation of cutting. Mr. Knee stated that most of the trees being removed are smaller and would be used as chips. There was discussion about closing Glen Oaks during the

cut. The members decided that they would put laminated signs at each entrance to notify people of the cut as they had done before. The signs will read "Caution Logging Operations in Progress Proceed At Your Own Risk." Mr. Cooper will communicate with the logger that the laminated signs will be placed at the entrances to the forest. Mr. Cooper stated that Glen Oaks has a lot of traffic.

- ii. The Town has been approached by a trapper wanting permission to trap Snowshoe Hare in Glen Oaks. After much discussion, the Commission is going to keep with the stipulations that are in affect currently. The application to trap must be submitted by October 1 which was not done, also they do not want a trapper there while logging is going on. The Commission also wants the trapper to come before them to answer some questions before they give a permit to trap. There were also concerns about the amount of Snowshoe hare in the area. To find out accurately, this would need to be done by a Forest Biologist which is expensive and timely. Ms. Miner said that they spoke about updating the Natural Resourse Inventory that dates back to 2008. She spoke to UNH and Rockingham Planning and she is in the process of getting a scope and cost together for the mapping. The Planning Board may pick this up as part of an update to the Master Plan. In the process, UNH suggested that the Conservation Commission gets together with Haley Andreozzi from Fish and Game on updating the text and that part of the Master Plan. Ms. Miner will let the Commssion know what the cost would be and it should also be shared elsewhere. Members agreed to not allow any trapping at the present time because it is not a well developed policy in town and the forester stated go carefully. Ms. Carlson will be informed that this is the position of the Conservation Commission because it will violate the management plan and concern with logging going on.

F. NHDES PERMITTING –

- a. Shirkin Road Widening – Ms. Miner sent Commission members a copy of an email she sent to Luke Hurley regarding widening Shirkin Road. Since the last meeting, Luke Hurley has met with DES and proposed parcel 04-007 on Tavern Road. This parcel is across from the Mullen property which was recently conserved and is in close proximity to the Town Forest. They looked at the CTAP report to see what parcels met the criteria, the applicant's consultant conducted a field visit to make sure that it met the conditions. They have now met the DES wetland mitigation manager, Lori Sommers. She agrees the property meets the criteria and that as part of the mitigation plan it needs to include the items she emailed. There are three general options:
 - i. The first option is to conserve the land as proposed. There is a time-line associated with these steps. To have a permit in time for the construction season, Ms. Miner and DES discussed a two-week period to review a plan and budget which would be by mid-March
 - ii. The second option is asking the applicant to write a check to the State Aquatic Resource Management (ARM) fund.
 - iii. The third option if owner is interested, but neither party can reasonably meet timeline is to not go through the process with the Shirkin Road applicant, but rather evaluate the property as potential Town conservation project).

- iv. This parcel is very desirable to buy or have an easement but there needs to be some steps first. First contact the owner/easement holder to see if they are interested in conserving and then prepare a plan and a budget to present to DES. An appraisal, land survey, proof of clear title, a draft baseline documentation report, and an environmental assessment done to confirm any hazardous waste issues will all need to be completed. The easement holder would also need to provide a budget for long term monitoring. We have about five weeks to complete this for DES. The Commission has concerns that completing all these items within five weeks would be difficult. Mr. Cooper will approach the owner and ask if they are interested in selling or conserving. After he speaks to the owner, he will contact the Commission members and they will schedule a meeting if the owner is interested.
- b. Proposed Updates to the state wetland regulations:
 - i. Ms. Miner reported that there are a lot of wetland updates including one on Beaver Deceivers. Ms. Miner reported that [HB 281](#) “This bill permits the installation of "beaver deceiver" water flow control devices for the purpose of discouraging beaver damming and reducing the risk of flooding. This allows a landowner to install a “beaver deceiver” on their land to protect property.”
 - ii. Ms. deBeer stated that a lot of the legislation changes are based on the letters that they receive, and the new wetlands proposed rules are heavily weighted in favor of the developers because not many Conservation people go to the meetings or wrote comments. This comment period is now closed.
 - iii. NHDES has a website regarding the proposed rules that has made the learning process for the wetlands proposal easier and more transparent. Power Point presentations, comments, the latest version of the proposed rules, a list of available GRANIT data layers and a list of DES layers. (please add highlighted above), and a new, online GIS based, wetlands permit screening tool that will be web based is being developed. This tool will be rolled out when they finish the wetlands rules. This will combine some of the data available GRANIT with NHDES One Stop data.
 - iv. Another proposed regulation where there is a chance for comments on wetland projects is that they are decreasing the distance abutter must be from the project from 20’ to 10’. This will decrease the amount of comments that will be allowed. They are trying to speed up the process. Many are complaining about this change. Another change is to eliminate permanent conservation review of permit by notification.
 - v. Legislative Updates – Emails continue to be received by the Commission members for review.

G. SELT CONSERVATION

- a. Brett - SELT anticipates grant decisions mid-2019.
- b. Mullen – Congratulations and thanks to the Mullens for conserving letter.

H. FREMONT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- a. Boylan - Ms. Miner reported there are no updates at this time.
- b. Town Property Easement Planning and Execution – Ms. Miner sent an email to Tim Lavelle to get a quote for easement and survey. Ms. deBeer would like a

quote from the surveyor who does work for SELT as the quality of his work is excellent. Contact information:

Eric C. Mitchell & Assoc. Inc.

P.O. Box 10298, 106 South River Road. Bedford, NH 03110-0298

(603) 627-1181

- c. Ms. deBeer has put together a spreadsheet showing town properties and suggested easement holders. She suggested that the new properties in the Oak Ridge side should be held by SPNHF (Society for the Protection of NH Forests). Cooperage Forest has deed restrictions on it, but they are not fool proof and SELT has been concerned about OHRVs, primarily dirt bikes, so if they held the easement they would have some control in overseeing enforcement. She suggested that SELT hold easements for some Town owned properties near and on Shirkin Road also a few other smaller lots. If SELT holds the easements, they will be active in helping to keep the lots protected. They may be willing to be the easement holder for these small lots if they hold the easement for Cooperage Forest, a 53 acre lot. It's usually difficult to get easement holders for small parcels. The Commission will look into which lots may benefit from being placed with an easement holder. Mr. Knee suggested placing the two properties under a conservation easement, and others at a future date. Ms. Miner stated that there needs to be a survey on 04-018, 02-151-001 and 03-056. She will reach out to SELT on 03-056 (Cooperage Forest) to ask if the existing property survey which is part of the Town Forest is acceptable. Ms. Miner will also ask SELT if they will do the easement on 05-052. Ms. deBeer was able to download the parcel data from the new screening tool being tested by DES but she was not able to get all of the data needed. She will keep trying.
 - d. Planning and Zoning Board Communications – Ms. Miner reported that Horsburgh was done. She also reported that the next step for the Mullen property is going before the Planning Board to do a subdivision at no cost to the Town. Additionally, the Board of Selectmen approved donating the parcel next to Brett property. But SELT must go before the Board of Selectmen to present this to them.
 - e. Aya Fund – Interpretive Trail planning April 2019 – Mr. Knee presented his idea to put tree identification signs in Oak Ridge South. This link is to show the sign mounting design: <http://www.davidarthur.us/signdisplayTL.html> Mr. Knee has been doing research to identify the type of trees and maturity of trees among other things. So far he has identified 12 to 13 different trees to potentially place the signs at. This project is more labor intense. There is also a possibility of adding a brochure box at some point and having QR codes as well. Mr. Knee was thinking Oak Ridge South is a more widely used trail. The best area for this project to begin is the ridge itself that comes from Rail Trail across Tavern Road. Mr. Howland and Mr. Knee will be making a sample sign post. **Ms. Crane made a motion to approve up to \$230 out of Aya Fund for tree identification displays. This motion was seconded Ms. Miner. The vote was unanimous 5-0.**
 - f. Website Update – Files – no update
- I. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS AND LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS
 - a. Powers Subdivision – Copp Drive was approved by the Planning Board with conditions.
 - b. Ragnar Original Innovations – This project was approved with conditions.
 - J. NEW BUSINESS

- a. UNH Coop Ext – Interview Conservation Priorities – Ms. Miner has replied to this and will give an update when they follow up with her about the overall program.
- b. NHDES – NH Draft 2018 303(d) is now online: List of impaired surface waters, Surface Water Quality Assessment Program
<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/index.htm>
- c. There is a new viewer available to view the results.: [Surface Water Quality Assessment Viewers](#)
- d. The CALM is a description of the methodology used: [Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology](#) (CALM)
- e. There was mention of 303(d) List of impaired surface waters and related documents are available on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) website at
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/2018/index.htm>.
[Appendix B – New Hampshire's Long-term 303\(d\) Vision and Request for Comments](#)
 - i. Post meeting note: Just because water is not on list does not mean it's not impaired.
 - ii. Related documents are available.
- f. Amphibian crossing Fremont – this will be moved to the next meeting

K. NEXT MEETING:

- a. The next regular monthly meeting will be on March 4th at 6:30 pm.

L. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. deBeer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Ms. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Clement
Slectmen's Clerk