

Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH

In attendance were Chair Leanne Miner; Vice Chair William Knee; Members Cindy Crane, Pat deBeer and Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. The members reviewed the minutes of February 11, 2019. **Ms. Crane made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Knee seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 4-0.**
- C. REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES – Member Business
1. Administration - None
 2. Calendar of Events and Announcements
 - a. ****NEW****March 15 10-12 (Friday) Town Hall Basement - UNH Coop Ext – Interview Conservation Priorities – Ms. Miner and Mr. Cooper will participate March 15th 10 AM at Town Hall (basement). Additional members are welcome to attend. **This date and time are not confirmed.**
 - b. March 26 (Tuesday) Invasive Species 7 pm Fremont Library – have questions ready or send questions if there are any
 - c. April 6 Saving Special Places- Prospect Mountain High School, Alton NH
 - d. 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 – Proposed project list – There are no updates as Open Space has not had a meeting.
1. Lengthen the Depot Trail extending it back toward the Library
 2. Planning spring B52 Hike. April possibility
 3. Tavern Road - mud holes maintenance.
 4. Fall Foliage Hike to Loon Pond.
 5. Trail map updates for kiosk

Ms. Miner reported about 24 people went on the winter Saturday February 23rd. When they got to Camp Nasty, the only thing left was the roof. Everyone enjoyed the hike. Ms. deBeer hiked out the week before with some other residents to clear some of the trail before the hike and met the family that owned the camp. She said there was a lot of family members and it was a nice meeting.

Ms. Miner reported that Open Space would work with the Garden Club to remove invasive species this spring. One of the sites mentioned an option was the Rail Trail where there is a lot of Bittersweet to be removed. Ms. Miner will contact UNH before the presentation at the library on March 26th and let them know that Bittersweet is a high priority in town and there will be many questions. The State owns the Rail Trail, but the members didn't think there would be a problem with removing the invasive species because it is State owned.

E. UNFINISHED (ONGOING) BUSINESS

1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a. Glen Oakes Harvest – Ms. Miner reported that nothing has been reported so things must be going well. All work should take about a month to complete.
- b. Updates to the Natural Resource Inventory - Ms. Miner will meet with Jenn Rowden, who suggested an update the Town Forest Management Plan and would get a cost estimate. Haley Ambrosi from DES and Emma Tutien from UNH would also be able to help. Theresa Walker, a consultant to Rockingham Planning Commission, assisted with the last plan written in 2009.

3. NHDES PERMITTING –

- a. Shirkin Road Widening – Review and decision on 2 mitigation options: The committee attempted to contact the owner of a parcel of interest on Tavern Road, but they were unable to do so. The time period to submit a property to DES to be considered for mitigation has past, but the committee would still be interested if this parcel became available at a future date. After some discussion the committee decided to move forward with the process. **Ms. Crane made a motion to have the committee’s response put into writing and sent to DES stating that they have not found an available property that fits the criteria for mitigation and that the applicant should pay the amount calculated for the State Aquatic Resource Management (ARM) fund. Ms. Miner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 4-0.**

4. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- a. Brett - SELT anticipates grant decisions mid-2019. No update.
- b. Horsberg – The Horsberg property has closed. SELT will seek donation of Parcel 04-052. Selectmen had been notified of SELT’s request to appear before the board sometime in March or April. Ms. Miner has the warranty easement deed from the closing on February 7, 2019 of the Horsberg property. Ms. Miner will give copies to Ms. Wolfe and will also send email copies of the deeds to members for their review and future comments or discussion.

5. FREMONT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- a. Tavern Road 04-007 near Oak Ridge Town Forest – There was some discussion about this property with the Shirkin Road project, but after many attempts to contact the owner with no response the committee has decided to not pursue this unless the owner is interested at a future date.
- b. Town Property Easement Planning and Execution – Next step is to determine cost to apply an easement where absent.
 1. Need survey quotes from 3 surveyors. Mr. Cooper has a list to contact. Ms. Miner will also check with Ms. Carlson to see if there are any surveys already done to say time and money.
 2. Legal Costs
 3. Easement monitoring costs. Contact SELT or Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests SPNF, to ask if we add to existing easement holder is there an additional cost. Ms. Miner will get clarification from Ms. Carlson on

- any costs that are associated with easement monitoring that the town may have to pay. Ms. deBeer will pull all information that she has on former easements.
- c. Cooperage Forest – SELT Easement; Property is 53 acres, Town Forest Designation, owned by Town with Deed Restrictions. Ms. Miner will contact SELT to see if there is a survey already complete on the Cooperage Forest property and will pull together the related information to have the easement placed. Mr. Knee said after they get all the information for the survey together they can work with SELT on the language of a conservation easement, and discuss their willingness to hold the easement. Note: If things work on the Brett property hopefully SELT will hold that easement. SELT is now the owner for the Horsberg property.
 - d. Ms. deBeer mentioned monitoring the Smith property (as it relates to easement monitoring costs) because the LCHIP grant required a stewardship plan (written by Mike Speltz) which stated requirements for the committee to monitor the Smith property and keep notes on it every year. This is only for the Smith property because there was a grant for this property. This was done as a safety net because SPNF monitors yearly from the ground and sometimes from the air. Ms. deBeer mentioned that Open space is always there and if anything happens. Ms. deBeer will get the information to the committee members for their review.
 - e. Aya Fund – Interpretive Trail planning April 2019 – Tree identification project Oak Ridge South. Mr. Knee reported that no final decisions have been made about the direction to go with the tree identification. He talked about adding information to make this more interesting and informative. Some ideas that he put forth were to add ecological information, for example acorns from a tree are eaten by certain animals and tell a little about the animal, show footprints, etc. Adding this to the project will change the design or may require adding another post for the additional information. Costs for additional signage will vary significantly depending on type (pre -made laminated signs or corrugated plastic). Mr. Knee to evaluate further. Mr. Knee and Ms. deBeer mentioned including the Library into their project by offering something inside for hands-on learning.
 - f. Website Update – Files – no update

F. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS AND LAND USE COMMENT SHEETS

1. Tom Nisbet re: request waiver for building height - plan amendment building on main st near water tower existing site plan approve in 2005. 25'2" not 18'2". **The committee has no comments.**
2. Tom Nisbet variance request to allow expansion previously approved 2005 lost vesting rights. **The committee has no comments.**
3. South Road Subdivision – members review the plans –**The committee stated that lots 1 & 4 driveways are within the 100' wetland buffer. It appears that the driveway in Lot 1 could be adjusted to avoid the buffer entirely. A significant portion of the driveway on Lot 4 occupies the wetland buffer (approx. ¾ of its length as shown) and is at one location within 10 – 15' of the actual wetlands as shown. Applicant will need to design the drive such that wetlands are not adversely impacted. The Conservation Commission requests a site visit to view wetlands affected by proposed driveway locations prior to Subdivision approval.**

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Data Base Review – no update
2. Amphibian crossing Fremont – After much discussion about the amphibian crossings the committee has decided to work together to map and locate areas that will most likely have these crossings. The window of opportunity to observe this is really small. They would like to start gathering information this year to plan a larger event next year. Mr. Knee will track the weather and let everyone know when he thinks would be a good time for the crossing to happen. This could be a hit or miss. He will contact everyone to go out to their predetermined areas to look for crossings taking place. They try to target 1 or 2 nights around the first rains which is when they are usually moving across the roads. The members of the committee will share their observations later.
3. It has come to Mr. Knee's attention that lot 3-168 has a conservation easement on it. This is the Sloan property, and has an Agriculture Conservation Easement Program Wetland Reserve Easement on the property. They received funding by the NRCS (USDA).
4. Ms. Miner mentioned that with the plans of single family subdivisions coming in town that she wants let people know that this has an impact on town taxes and that there are some properties that the town may be interested in conserving in the future. Ms. Cane mentioned that many residents are concerned about the tax rate in town and it is cheaper to conserve land.

H. NEXT MEETING: The next regular monthly meeting will be on April 1st at 6:30 pm.

I. ADJOURNMENT – **Mr. Knee motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk