

## Fremont Open Space Committee Minutes Aug 7, 2012

Approved November 13, 2012

- Meeting was convened at 7:10 PM. In attendance were J. Karcz, S. Harris, M. Thomas, and D. Howland.
- Minutes of May 8, 2012 were approved.
- Fall Hikes - Fall Foliage Hike had been planned for Sunday Oct 14th at 1 PM. However, a Smith Dedication and Hike has now been planned for Sat Oct 13th at 10 AM. The attendees feel that trying to have these two activities the same weekend will lead to confusion and complicate promoting the hikes. Therefore, the Open Space committee recommends COMBINING the two events, holding the Fall Foliage Hike as part of the Smith Dedication. It has already been suggested that we would have to prepare for two groups and two routes as not everyone will want to participate in the Smith BUSHWACKING.
- The Fremont Town Forest now has its own FACEBOOK page. The question was raised as to whether there was a link to this on the Fremont town website. (Subsequent to the meeting, it was learned that you do NOT have to have a Facebook account to access this page. (Go to [www.facebook.com/FremontTownForests](http://www.facebook.com/FremontTownForests))
- J. Karcz mentioned that the state was changing the regulations concerning prime wetlands and suggests that the Conservation Committee should clarify whether the Spruce Swamp wetland also meets the "grandfathered" criteria.
- The group agreed it would be a good thing for the CC/OS committees to have a presence at the September Fall Festival and a couple of members indicated they would be available to help man a booth. The objective would be to continue to expand awareness of the town forests and publicize upcoming activities.
- PSNH GRANT - Five possible projects were discussed as candidates to be included in the grant request. Since the first pass at expenses for the five exceed the \$1500 limit for the grant, each opportunity was examined as to feasibility and timing. The five projects are Oak Ridge North Kiosk, Glen Oakes Kiosk Expansion, Upgrading Oak Ridge North Trail Signs, Signage for Smith addition to Glen Oakes, Trail bridging at most critical water crossings.
  1. Oak Ridge North Kiosk - Replicating the existing kiosks was supported, as was giving this a high priority. Cost estimates would be increased to include new Oak Ridge Maps.
  2. Glen Oakes Kiosk expansion - This is required to give us a place for all the "partner" signage. The group felt strongly that adding a second kiosk for this purpose was not warranted or required. Adding a simple "billboard" structure was deemed adequate. Even the need for a Plexiglas covering was debated. Grant application to cost out simpler approach.
  3. OR North signage upgrade - Replacing all existing signage and adding trail names will cost \$500. Everyone was very comfortable WITHOUT having trail names on any signage. Further, the group felt that we really needed a new trail map for Oak Ridge, and delaying this further while trail names were debated was not the right thing to do. D. Howland to rerun the numbers without unique trail names signs.
  4. Signage for the Smith addition - It was agreed that any signage should have the same look and feel as the rest of Glen Oakes. However, timing was an issue here. There has been no discussion as to the location or extent of new trails within the Smith parcel.

Further, the CC wants to amend the Forest Management plan for Glen Oakes to include Smith before deciding on a "trail plan". The attendees felt that this would push the timeframe for any trail signage out into 2014 or beyond. Since the grant application requires an estimate of project completion, it would not be practical to include this now. On the other hand, if we get a grant this year, it is not likely we could get more funding for a few years and thus any additional Smith trail signage funding would have to come from somewhere else. D. Howland to rework the proposal to allow for some simple (and perhaps even temporary) signage so if the timing on any Smith trails is accelerated, we have some funds available.

5. Bridging was felt to be a lower priority and would only be included if we had headroom below the \$1500.

NEXT MEETING Nov 13, 2012 - Main floor Town Hall - Date tentative. Normal date of Nov 6th may not be practical as it is election day.

Minutes as submitted by Chairman Dennis Howland