

Fremont Open Space Advisory Minutes Feb. 4, 2013
Approved May 7, 2013

- Meeting was convened at 7:05 PM. In attendance were J. Karcz, J. Downing, S. Harris, B. Harris, M. Thomas, and D. Howland.
- Minutes of Nov 13, 2012 were approved.
- After a brief discussion, the Open Space attendees joined the Conservation Commission meeting downstairs. More detailed minutes of this discussion can be found in the Conservation Commission's meeting minutes, but the main points will be highlighted below.
 - The updated Open Space Advisory Group mission statement was reviewed and agreed to by both groups. The only significant change is the addition the responsibility to assist the FCC in trail maintenance and development. A copy of the revised mission statement is attached for reference.
 - The property rating process and rating criteria were reviewed. It was a consensus that the current process and criteria will remain in effect. The results of the Rockingham County Open Space exercise completed a few years ago will be used as a resource and to supplement the existing criteria.
 - It was agreed that a fund for future trail maintenance and development should be created. It would become a line item in the CC budget, though it is uncertain how much funding can be expected from the town. A more likely source would be from future town forest logging proceeds.
 - New trail development in the Smith addition to Glen Oakes will wait until the forest management plan has been updated.
 - There is a potential to hold a snowshoe hike in Oak Ridge from the library via the rail trail, but this will likely be done on short term, word of mouth notice.
 - The vandalism to the sign at Post 8 in Oak Ridge was reviewed. Sad but not much can be done to stop this sort of activity.
- There are no significant trail maintenance issues. Homestead in Glen Oakes has a leaning tree which will be taken down when weather warms. There is a log across the trail near post 8 in Oak Ridge which also will be removed when weather allows.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

NEXT MEETING May 7, 2013 - Main floor Town Hall

Minutes as submitted by Chairman Dennis Howland.

Fremont Open Space Advisory Group

MANDATE

To advise the Fremont Conservation Commission on the best ways to preserve and utilize open space in Fremont.

MISSION

To maintain the rural character of the town while balancing the financial and environmental wishes of the townspeople, preserving the character of our community, protecting our water supply, and maintaining the existing wildlife habitat.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide information to the residents of Fremont on the benefits of preserving open space.
2. Identify and prioritize open space in Fremont for possible preservation, and recommend purchase of desirable parcels according to the priority list as they become available.
3. Assist the Fremont Conservation Commission (FCC) in promoting the existing town forest assets.
4. Under the authority and direction of the FCC, assist in the maintenance of the existing town forest infrastructure and recommend opportunities for improvements and further development.
5. Act as an advisor for landowners who are considering maintaining their land as open space. Work with landowners who wish to transfer or sell the development rights for their land in order to preserve open space.