

## Fremont Open Space Advisory Minutes of Feb 4, 2014

- Meeting was convened at 7:05 PM. In attendance were J. Karcz, J. Downing, and D. Howland.
- Minutes of Nov 5, 2013 were approved.
- Group discussed the Glen Oakes logging project. D. Howland showed GPS maps of the areas that were cut and identified a number of places on the existing trail network which will require some form of maintenance, blazing or signage to insure the trails can be followed. The trails impacted are the footpath portion of Homestead and the western leg of Forest Loop. The "Parking Sign" at the intersection of Link and Forest Loop will have to be dug back into the ground. The loggers left it taped to a tree. Of the proceeds of the logging, 45% were from chipwood taken to a nearby electric power station, 35% were white pine, and 20% were hardwood and hemlock.
- Oak Ridge North Kiosk Update - The "kit" is just about complete in D. Howland's basement. This will minimize the time for assembly in the field. Lexan, concrete and a lock are still needed to be obtained. Conservation Commission is considering making the assembly and erection an "event". Timeframe is late April, or perhaps early May.
- The estate of Aja Mahoney has given the Conservation Commission a gift of \$10,000. This will be put into a special fund so Aja can be properly recognized when the funds are used.
- The Ladd property, a small lot surrounded by Glen Oakes, was allowed to be accessed through Glen Oakes for the purposes of harvesting some timber. The lot was "clear cut", and the group agreed this was unfortunate. With this lot being land locked and stripped of its only resource, it has rendered the lot essentially worthless. This did not happen within Glen Oakes thanks to the forester hired by the Conservation Commission to oversee the project. In addition, the owner has now posted "no trespassing" signs on their 75 yard section of the Island Road trail. Accessing the northern corner of Glen Oakes and the "Island" is now made more difficult as one has to bushwack around the Ladd property.
- The active membership of the Open Space Advisory Group has degenerated to the point where all we have left is essentially the "trail crew". We are no longer in a position to provide many of the other roles as defined in the mission statement. It was agreed that the property evaluation task could probably happen with enough advance notice and "beating the bushes" a little to get a few more people to attend the meeting. It does beg the question as to whether the original reasons for establishing the group are still valid, or if the situations are different today and a re-evaluation of the needs is warranted.
- We have had even more vandalism in the Oak Ridge South parking lot. The large Oak Ridge sign has been partially painted over. It is not yet known whether the paint can be removed without damaging the sign.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING - It is likely that the next meeting will be the Oak Ridge North Kiosk event in late April or May.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING May 6, 2014 - Main floor Town Hall - 7 PM

-Minutes as submitted by Chairman Dennis Howland.

Draft subject to review, correction and approval.