

**Forest Advisory Committee
Freedom Town Hall
January 3, 2018**

Members Present: Ron Newbury, Peter Park, Neal Boyle (S), Dave Charrette, Janet Meyers, Kevin Connerton(A)

Members Absent: Chuck Dephew

Others Present: None

Quorum: A quorum was met

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Chairman Ron Newbury presiding. The Minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed as the first order of business.

Minutes

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes for November 1, 2017 with the following amendments: Change Paul Eli to Paul Elie on page 1 under Others Present and top of page 2, and planed to planned on page 1. **Motion was seconded by Ron. All were in favor.**

Miscellaneous Correspondence /Invoices

Ron handed out the up-to-date accounting of funds. Invoices were reviewed next.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions

Invoice # 332

Amount \$55.00

Discussion: Kevin explained the invoice was for a full day of workshops he took with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, he attended with members of the FCC. He handed out some information regarding Trail Finder.

A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Peter to pay invoice #332 for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for \$55.00. All were in favor.

BH Keith

Invoice # 01-3430

For June 6, 2017- Dec 12,2017

Amount: \$1,100

Description: Forrest Administration, site Inspection, annual summary, proposed activities plan, annual state easement monitoring site inspection, attended various meetings.

22 hours @ \$50.00 an hour.

Meetings are not specified.

Discussion: Peter questioned if anything had already been paid. Previous meetings minutes were reviewed, there being no payments found it was decided to pay invoice # 01-3430.

A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Jen to pay invoice # 01-3430 for BH Keith in the amount of \$1,100.00. All were in favor.

Ron reviewed what was in the stewardship plan. The balance is \$4,875.00, Ron then read page 5 of the BH Associates bid where it discusses the cost of the Stewardship Plan update not to exceed a fee of \$12,000. Amount already paid towards Stewardship Plan Update \$7,125.00

BH Keith Associates Contract

Date 12/12/2017

Invoice 01-3433

Amount \$7,603.56

Description: Stewardship Plan Update

Discussion: Ron asked committee members their input regarding the above invoice. Having already paid \$7,125.00 in addition to 7,603.56 puts the bid amount over by \$2,728.56. If the overage is paid it would leave a total of \$8,764.00 for the year. Peter asked if there was a contract. Jen asked if there was a reason for the overage. Ron responded the agreement he was looking at was signed by all the selectman, Barry and Rob Hatch. Ron suggested authorizing spending the remaining \$4,875.00 and recommend the rest, only after the Selectmen review and approve the overcharge. Jen responded that was a good idea.

A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Dave to pay the \$4,875.00 to bring the amount to the agreed amount of \$12,000, the difference is to be handled by the Board of Selectman and legal counsel. Motion passed 5-0-1. Neil abstained.

Comment [sb1]:

Ron reported that Berry's fee was going to \$60.00 an hour which represents a 20% increase. After a brief discussion the board decided \$50.00 an hour would be what they are willing to pay. Jen stated we are heading into a time where there will be no cuts so there will be no money coming in. Peter would like to see more itemizing done on the bills. The time it took to complete the Stewardship Plan was another concern the committee had as well.

Peter made a motion, seconded by Jen to recommend to the conservation (FCC) that the FAC recommends remaining at the \$50.00 an hour rate for Berry Keith. All were in favor.

Ron will attend the FCC meeting to bring them up to date on the committee's decisions and to advise them of their responsibility to appoint someone to serve as their representative.

Review of 2018 Budget

Ron handed out the balance of accounts, numbers were reviewed. All funds were encumbered. There was new money added.

Review Madison Town Forester's request to use our Town Forrest

It was decided to table this for a later meeting.

Review Roadside Mowing Priorities for 2018

Ron suggested getting survey stakes and in the spring mark out the trees that have a chance to survive. This would help knowing where they are and assess them while Dave is mowing. Jackman Ridge Road is a priority per the proposed activities schedule. There was a brief discussion around sponsorship for endowments for wildlife openings, Janet Meyers will reach out to Janet Johnson to see what she may have had put together for the project.

Ron asked if anyone was interested in serving as vice president, no one at this time can serve in the position.

David reported he went to the FCC and submitted his application for the Scrub Oak Scrambler Winter Carnival. Committee members expressed their support for the application and thanked him for getting the application in.

Kevin confirmed Ron will attend the next FCC meeting to go over the FAC recommendations and the notes from tonight's meeting.

There being no other business to come before the Board, **a motion was made by Jen seconded by Peter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc
Recording Secretary