

**Forest Advisory Committee
Freedom Town Hall
November 7, 2018**

Members Present: Chairman Ron Newbury, John Roman(A), Dave Charrette, David Straw,

Members Absent: Jeffery Towle Planning Board Rep, Kevin Connerton(A), Janet Meyers, Chuck Dephew, Ernie Day (s)

Others Present: None

Quorum: A quorum was met

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Chairman Ron Newbury presiding. The minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting were reviewed as the first order of business.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ron, seconded by John to accept the October 3, 2018 minutes as written. All were in favor.

Miscellaneous Correspondence/Invoices

Invoice

B.H Keith

Date 10/16/18

Invoice # 01-3507

Description period July 18th – Oct. 16th

Forest inspection, access issues, prepare for state inspection, trail inspection, 2018 work summary and proposed 2019 activity plan.

Ron stated there was \$4,663.00 left in this year's budget and there will be one more bill from Barry.

John made a motion, seconded by Ron to pay the invoice for B.H. Keith Associates invoice # 01-3507. All were in favor.

Pedestrian Bridge

Ron brought a proposal for a pedestrian bridge before the committee. The bridge is being proposed by a gentleman that would pay for it at his own expense. Discussion ensued around the plan for the bridge and the concerns around the plan. The area where the bridge is being proposed is on the Pequawket class A trail. The dimensions of the bridge would be 16 feet long 3 feet wide. Dave C. mentioned getting permits to build the bridge. Ron stated he spoke with the someone from the state and was under the impression one was not needed.

Dave C. explained unless something has changed his experience is that a permit will be needed as well as a detailed plan of the bridge. Discussion ensued around due diligence regarding obtaining any permits and the details of the bridge. It was also discussed if horses and snowmobiles should be allowed to use the bridge. Dave C. did not think the plan presented met the best management practices that the state puts out. Dave C. stated the bridge would have to be monitored for the beavers because that spot has been a problem in the

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past. Ron will take the concerns of the committee regarding the specs of the bridge to Pete and find out more about the permitting process.

Review Town Forester 2018 Summary / and 2019 proposals

The stewardship plan is not done yet. Ron handed out the Proposed Budget Recommendations and Proposed Activity Schedule for 2019. The proposed budget includes boundary maintenance- volunteer training. It was suggested by Barry and the forester to apply for the grants from Fish and Game and Bureau of Trails. JP Mcvitty looked at mowing old Pequawket Trail (2.2 miles) and connector trail and estimated the cost to be \$350.00 Dave commented that he did not think FAC could apply for a grant from Bureau of Trails because that is for motorized sport ATV and snowmobiles and we should not be paying anyone to apply for that grant (because FAC would not qualify for it). Bureau of Trails was removed from the Proposed Budget Recommendations and replaced with or other entities.

Liming wildlife openings were discussed, and Dave C. explained how he determines which ones need to be limed.

Putting the mowing and liming out to bid was discussed. Ron did not want to take anything away from the snowmobile club and questioned if there would be a benefit to partner with someone to do the openings. Dave C. is not opposed to putting it out to bid. There are 11 landings total. It was decided to put feelers out to see if anyone is interested in sharing the job.

Dave C. shared his concern that there is a small window to do the mowing because of the berries for the wildlife and the concern of hitting a rock in a drought that would spark and start a fire.

Dave C. reported that the bear dog guys created a trail off the hiking trail near the trout pond and fish and game have caught them on camera moving the trees that were put in place to discourage people from driving where they should not be driving. Discussion ensued around people driving around the kiosk and gates.

Dave C. asked about talking to Barry about getting the proposed timber harvest done. Ron will follow-up with Barry.

Dave has a contact he can talk to about the permit for the pedestrian bridge and what else might be needed.

There being no other business to come before the board David **made a motion, seconded by John to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc
Recording Secretary

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