

Forest Advisory Committee

September 6, 2017

Freedom Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Janet Johnson

Others Present: Less Babb (S), Bill Elliott, Barry Keith, Barbara McEvoy.

Quorum: A quorum was met with 8 members present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Ron opened the meeting reviewing the minutes for August 2, 2017.

A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Janet M. to approve the meeting minutes dated August 2, 2017 with the correction to Janet's name from Jen to Janet. All were in favor.

Ron informed the Committee that Janet Johnson has submitted her resignation to the Board of Selectman, however at this time the Selectmen have not accepted it.

Ron will run the meeting tonight in her absence.

Correspondence/Invoices

A letter from the Nature Conservancy was read informing the Committee about forest burns that will take place between now and the end of October when the weather permits, qualified firemen and equipment become available. Contact information is available if people want to be warned when this will take place. Janet suggested town email list, Peter suggested the Town web site.

The next correspondence shared was a note from Town Administrator Karen Hatch regarding insurance coverage required by a certain group. The group has been notified about the insurance coverage required.

Notification of the date for FAC, FCC, BOS (Board of Selectmen), DNCR(Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) meeting.

Ron updated the Committee that there will be a meeting at the request of Board of Selectmen between the following: FAC, FCC, BOS, and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) September 27th tentatively at 1:00 p.m. at the Freedom Town Hall. A member asked what the meeting was about and Ron referred to Less Babb who explained there are a lot of

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new people in Town since the Town Forrest came into play years ago and there is misconception about what can and cannot happen there. It was thought that a public forum would be good to have people come and ask their questions and explain what went into getting the Town Forest in place. There will be a question answer period regarding how the forest can be used.

Stewardship Plan Update

Barry Keith was on hand to update the Committee on the Stewardship Plan. He explained the Stewardship Plan update is not meant to be a new plan. The update will take what we knew was in the forest and what we've done to enhance the forest and where do we go from here.

Barry reviewed a map showing the harvesting done in the Forrest to maintain it and enhance the habitat. Harvesting practices were discussed and future harvesting goals.

Barry reviewed areas that could generate some income and need treatment.

Rob questioned a map that showed a timeline of events. He also questioned the language for Property Management because it is completely different from the original Stewardship Plan. He said they looked at the old and the new and the Committee likes the way it was with the exception with the correction of it is the Selectmen not the FCC who appoints the members. Barry said he is not sure how the wording got changed and he will revisit it and the committee will have a chance to review it.

Chuck Depew gave a brief history of how the Forrest came about regarding the Forrest Legacy Grant.

Ron questioned the recent bird survey done by Tin Mountain if the data could be used. Barry said they can submit it to the State.

Ron requested that as Barry gets the work done on the Stewardship Plan that he put in a word document and continue to send it to Janet Johnson.

Ron suggested having another meeting before the FCC meets again to work on the Stewardship Plan.

It was decided to meet next Thursday Sept. 14th at 7:00 p.m. to continue working on the Stewardship Plan.

Barry will leave a copy at his office of Wildlife Resources for Ron to get for the meeting.

Ron said if anyone cannot attend the September 27th meeting let him know what their concerns are and he will present them at the information session.

A motion was made by Janet M., seconded by Peter to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. All were in favor.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc,
Recording Secretary

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