

FREEDOM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 16, 2018

7:00p.m. at the Freedom Town Hall

FCC Members Present: Paul Elie, John Roman, Alice Custard, Cheryl Harris, JP Mcvitty,

FCC Members Absent: Sue Hoople (A), Frank Lalumiere(A), Sarah Tabor

Others Present: Stacy Bolduc Recording Secretary, Susan Marks, Kevin Connerton

Quorum: A quorum was met

Minutes

The November minutes were reviewed as the first order of business. Cheryl questioned the \$11,263.56 on the top of page 3. John explained that money is encumbered Forrest Advisory money. Cheryl questioned when the rules and procedures would be properly presented and inquired about Mark MacConkey's question to the board to consider changing the 125-ft. setback ordinance for new septic systems.

JP commented regarding the 125-ft. rule, we don't have to go by the State, and Mark would have to go to the Planning Board first. Cheryl commented the way it was worded in the minutes it sounds like unfinished business. John responded it was his understanding it's not our place to make changes like that. Cheryl questioned if it was in the boards purview to do the research and make the recommendation. John responded he was not sure. Alice commented she felt Mark was expressing his opinion to the board and if he really wants to get this done he needs to go to the Zoning Board. A brief discussion ensued.

John asked if everyone has an updated version of the amended Rules and Bylaws. Cheryl does not have one due to not being at the November meeting. Paul stated it should be a draft. John will make sure everyone has one for next month's meeting. Rules and Bylaws will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Sarah made a motion, seconded by JP to accept the November 21,2017 with the following amendments: *Under members absent change Sara to Sarah, Frank Lalumiere (A) needs to be added to absent, Change Mark McConky to Mark McConkey.*

December minutes were reviewed next.

A motion was made by Alice, seconded by JP to accept the December 19,2017 with the following amendments: *Change water shed to watershed, page 2 top of the page under Phase I where it reads where the fish go the oxygen levels are low do to phosphorus change do to due, under action plan change plant implementation to prevent soil erosion to implement planting to prevent soil erosion, to decide whether or not to put the report on the Town website as a follow up item, on page 1 Change Ron to John, under others present take out Josh Shackford add Matt Tyler, under Minutes change Pend to table approval, top of page 2 change base to bays under Phase I. Page 3 remove the comma after land acquisitions and change where it reads Paul asked the Board given the vote last week change to month.*

Check future meeting minutes for any amendments or changes to these minutes.

Invoices

The two-tier rate for the B.H. Keith Associates 2018 Forest Management Service Agreement was discussed. Ron Newbury was present on behalf of the FAC to discuss the invoices for the Stewardship Plan and the hourly rate recommend by the FAC.

Ron explained the FAC position on the recommended flat hourly rate of \$50.00. A couple of things considered by the FAC was, the Stewardship Plan being late, and cost overrun for the Stewardship Plan. Ron went on to explain how Barry use to charge a different rate for himself and a secondary forester. Independent from the FAC he is not opposed to the two-tier rate.

Invoice # 01-3430
Description June 6- December 12, 2017
Date 12/12/2017
Amount \$1,100.00

A motion was made by Alice, seconded by Cheryl to pay B.H. Keith Associates invoice for \$1,100.00. All were in favor.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions
Invoice # 332
Description Early Bird Registration
Date 10/20/17
Amount 55.00

A motion was made by Cheryl, seconded by Alice to pay NH Association of Conservation Commissions invoice for \$55.00. All were in favor.

B.H. Keith Associates
Invoice# 01-3433
Description Stewardship Plan update- Period June 26- Oct 26,2017
147 hrs. @ \$50.00/hr. - \$7,350.00
NH Natural Heritage Bureau Datacheck Filing Fee \$25.00
Printing/Reproduction \$193.15
Printing/Reproduction \$35.41
Date 12/12/2017
Total \$7,603.56

John reviewed the remainder of the Stewardship bill and funds left to pay it. There is \$4,875.00 encumbered in the Forrest Stewardship Plan fund and another \$2,500.00 encumbered for forester funds.

The overage was discussed. Ron explained he went to the Selectman regarding the overage and the only thing they recommended was getting a letter explaining why for the overage. John said the only overrun he sees is the cost of the office supplies. John feels the issue going forward is if the state comes back and wants to put changes in.

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There was discussion where the money for the overage would come from. John said there are sufficient funds going forward and to cover the overage of \$228.56.

Cheryl expressed her concern that the board is using 2018 funds for something that should have been completed in 2016 and she suggested putting in some time requirements for providing things in a timely manner and if things are not provided timely maybe imposing a penalty.

JP suggested getting rates on a forester because he thought the rates were low.

The current agreement was reviewed. Discussion ensued around raising the current rate from \$50.00 to \$60.00.

Alice made a motion to pay the extra \$228.56, seconded by Paul. All were in favor.

Cheryl questioned who would have a copy of the Stewardship Plan when it is approved. She also questioned putting the Stewardship Plan on the town website and how the plan gets distributed. Paul stated it's a question for legal. John said it is on his list to investigate further.

Cheryl made a motion, seconded by Paul to recommend to the Selectmen when the Stewardship Plan is complete to publish it on the Town website.

B.H. Service Agreement for 2018 was discussed next.

John questioned Ron on the FAC position on the flat rate of \$50.00 an hour. Ron responded at the time it was a reaction to the tardiness of the report, the cost overrun and what is left in the budget. He went on to say if the insight of this board is that the proposal makes sense, he would sign it.

Cheryl wanted to discuss the agreement further. She suggested if the service provided is at the Field Forester level that's what the board expects to be billed, if the service provided is at the Principal Forester/Biologist then the bill would be at that level. Paul suggested looking into what the state gets for comparison. Alice commented on Barry's knowledge of the forest and not wanting to start over with someone new. Cheryl commented on his knowledge for writing grants and his coordination with state agencies. Printing cost is not in the agreement and Cheryl would like that clarified how that cost will be handled in the future. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Cheryl, seconded by Paul that FCC accept Barry Keith's 2018 Forest Management Service agreement with the stipulations that future invoices in 2018 delineate whether the service is provided as a Principal Forester/Biologist or a Field Forester and receive quarterly billings at the least. All were in favor.

John handed out Chapter 3 Natural Resources and complimented Cheryl on a job well done revising the chapter. Cheryl explained the Planning Committee would like the FCC input regarding final goals, so they can include the recommendations of the Board.

Watershed Management Plan

John asked for feedback regarding the presentation last month regarding the Watershed Management Plan. Cheryl recommended having a display at Town Meeting to educate people. Paul feels town

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meeting is busy with voting, conducting out reach seminars is one of his goals for the year and he suggested giving presentations at community club dinners. Paul detailed his top four goals as the following:

- Coordinate with Effingham and Ossipee to come up with a plan regarding the Watershed Management Plan. Have a coordinated effort based on the presentation by Forrest Bell. Concerns for the lake reaching a class 2 status.
- Research Conservation Land Acquisition – There are some people in town interested in this and Paul feels FCC should pursue this as a goal to make that happen.
- Ground water protection/Large Water Extraction
- Out Reach Seminars

Discussion ensued around investigating grant money the possibility of other organizations such as Ossipee Lake Alliance that may be able to help in the project.

Public Comment

Susan Marks updated the Board on a bill Jerry Knirk is trying to get passed regarding towns that share surface water. The second part of the bill will mandate updating a failed and inadequate septic system on properties that are on surface waters. Susan will send the whole bill to the board. There is a hearing in Concord 1/23/18 at 10:00 a.m.

Kevin Connerton asked what the total cost of the Stewardship Plan is. John responded a little bit over \$12,000. Ron thought there was an overage of \$2,700.00. The numbers were clarified, and the overage is just the printing cost.

Wet lands application to put a dock in at Spindle Point was reviewed.

Notice of intent to cut wood on Moulton Rd. was also reviewed.

A motion was made by Alice, seconded by Cheryl to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc,
Recording Secretary

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