

**Forest Advisory Committee
Freedom Town Hall
September 5, 2018**

Members Present: Chairman Ron Newbury, Janet Meyers, Chuck Dephew, John Roman(A), Dave Charrette, David Straw, Ernie Day (s)

Members Absent: Jeffery Towle Planning Board Rep, Kevin Connerton(A)

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 Aug 1, 2018 meeting were reviewed as the first order of business.

Minutes

Jen made a motion, seconded by David to accept the August 1st minutes as written.

All were in favor.

Miscellaneous Correspondence/Invoices

There were no new invoices.

Ron reported that the Nature Conservancy is planning a controlled burn in several places between now and the end of October in the pines.

Ron let committee members know that per the state's request, Barry did flag and place signs on the boundary lines near Burnt Meadow Stables. No date has been set yet for the state inspection though Barry thinks it will likely be within the next month. A letter was reviewed from Barry regarding post Labor Day site inspection (see attached). The inspection covered the primary points of access and the general conditions.

Ron commented the gate at Jackman ridge road is locked open with a snowmobile lock because it does not need to be locked right now but, it will need to be replaced. Barry questioned if the gates should be rekeyed if the gates were getting a lot of access, after a brief discussion it was agreed that it was not necessary.

The report suggested putting more brochures out at Pequawket Trail and Jackman Ridge Rd. Ron will confirm with the Chair of the Commission how many broacher's he can order. It was noted that the gate at Jackman's Ridge road was bent. Wasps have made a home within the lock enclosure.

The large metal Milfoil sign at Trout Pond is missing and assumed to be stolen.

The culvert has been cleaned out on Hurd Rd. and the gate is locked.

For further information on the post Labor Day Inspection please see attached.

Ron reported in the town forest maintenance account has \$45,000 and land use change tax conservation has around \$18,000.

There is no timber harvest planned for this year.

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

Madison Timber Harvest

Paul Elie suggested holding a joint meeting between FAC and FCC to discuss Madison's timber harvest proposal. Ron asked for thoughts on the proposed joint meeting to share the FAC's insight on the project.

Ernie shared his thoughts on the project. He stated he was not for the project in the beginning but now can see some benefits of letting Madison use the road. Some benefits discussed to save the town money were the brontosaurus machine and getting the water bars and water turnouts fixed. Ernie also suggested proposing a \$50,000 line of credit with conditions in place instead of a bond for any damages that may be done to the road. Other conditions discussed as suggested by the road agent could be that the water bars and water turnouts be fixed prior to the harvest and any damage done to them during the operation be repaired at the end of the project Scott also suggested a stone apron be put in at the end of Shaw Town Rd., so the trucks are not tracking mud out onto the road. Another condition discussed was at Madison's expense that the Freedom Forester Barry Keith make weekly inspections to make sure everything is in order.

Ernie suggested each member of the committee bring their conditions to the next meeting to be reviewed and discussed and try to decide whether or not to support the proposed project.

Ernie will confirm with the town attorney if it is more beneficial for the town to require a line of credit or a bond. Ron asked how the line of credit would be accessed, Ernie responded when it was required for the cell tower it was accessed through the attorney. It was briefly discussed that the project should start in August. Proposed time frame will be discussed more next month.

Ernie made a motion, seconded by Jen to have each committee member come up with specific conditions they would like to see that addresses the financial concerns of the committee. All were in favor.

Chuck Dephew wanted to remember Jennifer Molin's dedication to the Town Forest. He feels the Town Forest would not have happened without her dedication and shared how she influenced his involvement with the forest. The Committee agreed Jennifer was instrumental in getting the Town Forest started and will be remembered fondly for all of her hard work and dedication.

There being no other business to come before the board **Ernie made a motion, seconded by Jennifer to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc
Recording Secretary