

**December 18, 2018**

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

**FCC Members Present:** Chairmen Paul Elie, Vice Chair Cheryl Harris, JP Mcvitty Frank Lalumiere, FCC Rep. to the FAC David Straw, Alice Custard, Sue Hoople(A), Sarah Tabor

**FCC Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Stacy Bolduc Recording Secretary, Jeff Lougee from The Nature Conservancy

**Quorum:** A quorum was met

With a quorum having been declared the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Paul Elie as Chairmen presiding. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed next.

**Minutes**

**A motion was made by Cheryl, seconded by David to accept the November 20, 2018 meeting minutes with the following amendment:** Pg. 3 under sub-committee replace Aquifer Advisory with Drinking Water Protection. **All were in favor.**

**Invoices**

**A motion was made by David, seconded by Sarah to approve the following invoices:**

BH Keith  
Invoice 01-3507  
Date 10/16/18  
Amount: \$725.00

BH Keith  
Invoice 01-3521  
Date 12/4/18  
Amount: \$175.00

BH Keith  
Date 11/7/18  
Invoice 01-3511  
Amount: \$450.00

Scrub Oak Scramblers  
Invoice 2017-2018  
Date 12/5/18  
Amount: \$400.00

Mowing  
**All were in favor.**

Jeff Lougee came before the board to explain he has an opportunity to put in a grant to apply for monies that would help with a controlled burn in the pine barrens located in the southern end of the Freedom Town Forest. Jeff went on to explain the benefits of doing a controlled burn in the pine barrens.

Jeff is proposing to include the following in the grant:

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

- **The development of a Fire Management Plan** that focuses on the 200-250 acres that need to be burned. (similar to a timber harvest management plan).
- Writing one **Burn Unit Prescription Plan**, which is a detailed plan outlining burning one specific area and what would be involved to burn that specific area safely. It would outline how the burn would be done, i.e., the people that need to be present, the weather and equipment, etc.

Jeff met with the FAC last week, and he has spoken with the fire department about using the burn as training for fire suppression.

Concerns discussed:

- Smoke control and contacting people who might be sensitive to smoke (respiratory problems).
- Others who might need to be involved with the burn.
- The area is overdue for a controlled burn and could be vulnerable to a fire; the last fire was in 1947 the 1957 fire stopped around Calumet.
- Permits would be signed by the town fire warden and district ranger.
- The cost would be \$5,000 for doing both the Fire Management Plan and Burn Unit Plan, and the grant would cover 50% of the cost. Jeff stated if the town could match the \$2,500.00 that would be great, but he is willing to keep the project in the grant proposal, and he will find a way to fund the outstanding \$2,500.00.
- The average cost to burn is around \$8,000 it varies based on how many acres need to be burned.
- The grant needs to be submitted Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jeff explained if approved the funding would become available in 2019 and would be a four-year proposal, and the first burn could happen late 2019. Jeff was asking for endorsement to keep the two plans in the grant (the Fire Management Plan and the Burn unit Plan). Discussion ensued around budgets having already been submitted for next year and how to budget in the future and consulting with the town forester and selectmen. Amending the budget was discussed to come up with the \$2,500.00 to match the grant for the Fire Management Plan and Burn Unit Plan. Jeff will look into possibly submitting for a grant next year even if there is an active grant to include the burn unit plan in next year's proposal and the match could be budgeted for next year. Applying for a grant through Fish and Game to help pay for the match was suggested.

Paul confirmed with the board that they support going forward with the grant. Cheryl supports going forward with grant and bringing it to the voter's attention at the town meeting that funding will be needed in the future. All agreed to move forward with the grant. Jeff questioned does the board want to include the prescribed burn in the proposal and can the board give a verbal commitment to provide a match for the Burn Unit Prescription Plan. Discussion ensued around the burn prescription plan and the estimated cost of one burn would be around \$8,000.00 for approximately 20 acres, and Jeff would be looking for a match of \$4,000.00 (this is an estimate) for the year 2021 which would give time to get the money in the budget. Because there are roughly 250 acres, the burn is not done all at once; it could take up to ten years to complete all that needs to be burned, so it would have to be budgeted for yearly. Discussion ensued around future budgeting.

JP suggested taking some money from this year's budget to put towards the match. It was agreed to move forward with the Fire Management Plan and include one controlled burn.

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**A motion was made by Cheryl, seconded by Alice to allocate a contingent \$500.00 in support of the Fire Management Plan to the Nature Conservancy to show Freedom's good faith in this grant proposal and is contingent on the grant being approved. All were in favor.**

**NHDES**

NHDES applications were reviewed.

A letter from Camp Huckins regarding their yearly donation to the town was reviewed.

Paul updated the board that the Stewardship Plan will be done by the end of the month.

**Madison Logging Proposal**

The final approval for the Madison logging proposal will come from DNCR. Paul has spoken to Susan F. and she suggested making a list of conditions that would cover the roads and the forest to leave them in as good shape or better than what they were found. The next step is to forward the FCC's recommendations to the selectmen.

Frank reviewed briefly the Drinking Water Protection workshop he attended.

**There being no other business to come before the board David made a motion, seconded by Cheryl to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. All were in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Bolduc  
Recording Secretary

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

