

Freedom Conservation Commission/Freedom Forest Advisory Committee

A Public Joint Meeting of the Freedom Conservation Commission & Forest Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, 17 November, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and following the declaration of an emergency by the Chair of the Freedom Conservation Commission, this Commission is authorized to meet electronically

This meeting will be conducted using the Zoom platform. To join via Zoom, please go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85965870834> Meeting ID: 85965870834.

If you do not have internet access, please use this phone number: (929) 205 6099

If you have difficulty logging in or dialing in, call (978) 995-5261 for assistance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Paul Elie. Present are Paul Elie, David Straw, Sue Hoople, Alice Custard, Matt Tyler, Jeff Nicoll, John Roan, Ron Newbury, and Jeff Lougee, Barry Keith and Ernie Day.

Quorum Check and Roll Call - FCC has a quorum. David Straw is present for Forest Advisory Committee. FAC has a quorum also.

Approval of 15 September 2020 Minutes – Alice made a motion to approve, Matt seconded. APPROVED

Business Properly Presented to the Commission

Pine Barren Burn with The Nature Conservancy & Town Forester - Barry Keith and Jeff Lougee are present. The Forest Service gave a Wildfire Risk Reduction grant. The timeline was originally starting in 2019 and lasting for four years. There have been delays, and we are behind on the project overall. Two documents need to be in place before we can do the burn. There is a 20 acre area that is being considered. This will be worked on over the winter and spring. They intend to collaborate with the Fire Department to do some training during the burn. \$4000 in matching funds have been committed. Barry would like to schedule a walkthrough with Jeff to determine what areas need to be addressed. He is concerned because there are a lot of seedlings that have grown back in the 20 acre burn area. Paul asked about the timing and mentions that consideration needs to be given to timing for warrant articles. Funds would likely come from the Forest Maintenance Fund. This project will either happen in 2021 or 2022. It is suggested by Barry to carry the \$1000 in the budget for the prep, and encumber it if it is not used.

Jeff Lougee left the meeting.

Forest Maintenance Account with Town Forester - The account has been dwindling for the past few years. How will we build it back up going forward? The \$1000 may be able to be taken from the wildlife fund. Timber projects may be done to help build back the balance. The State Forester has left NH, and the replacement has just come on board. We need their approval to move forward with our plan. NH Fish and Game had small landowner grants for stewardship plans. We have used those in the past.

Forest kiosk names - Jennifer Mullen and Chuck Depew have been suggested. Ron spoke about previous discussions regarding a bench. The Selectmen had concerns about recognition. Alice made a motion to take back the idea of naming the forest kiosks and not doing them after all. Matt seconded. APPROVED

Approve Invoices - NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions in the amount of \$250. Paul made a motion to approve to renew our membership. Alice seconded. APPROVED

Review Applications - Cristoferi - Shorefront - to build a retaining wall. Previous FCC concerns were with the stormwater runoff. The application has been modified after being sent to the ZBA. They have approved the retaining wall. The FCC is supposed to sign, but it was submitted to the State without our signature or comments. Paul has spoken with DES about this. He has not heard back from them.

Two intents to cut were received. Paul reviewed them.

Jean Marshall will be submitting an application to build a garage adjacent to some wetlands. Paul met with Green Mountain - Matt Howe and Jillian Emerson. Tim Allison and Ned Kucera, and a gentleman from the UNH monitoring program attended also. This was in regards to testing Loon Lake. The UNH program will participate with us. NHDES is full, so they can not participate. Green Mountain charges \$50 per hour. They can test Loon Lake and Round Pond. The testing will check for phosphorous and chlorophyl. They can freeze the samples. They suggested 11 samples, over bi-weekly visits, which would be approximately \$1500. Loon Lake will contribute \$500. The Selectmen suggested taking the funds from the FCC budget. Testing typically happens between May and September.

Long Sands and the Ossipee Aquifer Committee met last month. Salt contamination was a topic at both presentations.

The budget needs to be discussed with the Selectmen on December 7.

John Roman spoke about emails being received regarding SOS work parties in the forest. We have not heard from Dave Charette. Everything looks good out there. John would like some feedback from the club. No mowing has been done this season.

Ron will close the Jackman Ridge Road at the end of hunting season.

Alice asked for information for Tara Schroeder regarding the Master Plan update (2019) and Natural resource Chapter is Chapter 3. Do we use the Ossipee Watershed Natural Resource Guide? We do not know the answer to that question. Are there any new ordinances that Green Mountain should know about? The Planning Board is working on two - stormwater runoff and one other.

Correspondence / Information

Public Comment

Other Business to come before the Commission

Adjournment – Matt made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm, Alice seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary