

Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 17 August 2021 7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are: Robert Oram, Jeff Nicoll, Alice Custard, Sue Hoople, Matt Tyler, Melissa Donaldson-Recording Secretary

Approval of 20 July 2021 FCC Meeting Minutes – Jeff will review FAISC minutes, there used to be a Milfoil Committee – add “member” in this group. Alice made a motion to approve as amended, Matt seconded. 5- 0-0 APPROVED

Business properly presented to the Commission

Review of Application(s)

Shoreland Permit, Taylor, William and Cheryl, 64 North Broad Bay Rd. - we have commented on this previously. DES may want more information on the endangered plant species that are potentially on the lot.

Shoreland Permit, DJH Investment Trust, 173 Haverhill Street – we have commented on this previously. It was discussed at the ZBA meeting. Jeff read the letter that we sent to the ZBA. There were changes to the plan that reflected our comments. The impervious areas on the lot are increasing significantly.

Correspondence / Information / Discussion

Town Forest Timber Harvest, Review of Vendor Contract(s) – Barry Keith is present. The State approved plan included doing some work being done in the forest. The easement monitoring folks were pleased to hear that this was moving forward. Their visit will likely occur in September. This will require a meeting, in which Barry will review what has been going on, and then a tour. Some of the boundaries have not been marked in the last 15 years. The State is concerned about residential abutter lines that need to be repainted. Barry will get the paint, and FAC volunteers had said they would help with the marking.

Forest Management Update was finally approved by the State. The harvest will be on approximately 120 acres, located off from Gate 2. This area was thinned in 2005/06. The project will include selection improvement thinning, removal of aspen in small patch cuts, some saw log material (white pine). Approximately \$30,000 is anticipated. Humphry from Parsonsfield will be the contractor. A check needs to be held in escrow against the timber tax. This has been provided.

There is a question about whether this needs to go out to bid, as it is over \$5000. Barry stated that this has never been the case.

The second part of the timber sale will continue over by the airstrip, to the TNC border.

Barry offered a tour of the cut, if anyone is interested. Once the project is well underway, a tour can be scheduled.

Funding from the Town has been given to work on the Fire Plan with the Nature Conservancy. The steward has taken the summer off, but when he returns he and Barry will do a recon of the pitch pine areas that they want the burn plan on.

Oram made a motion to approve Barry's contract, Alice seconded. APPROVED

Matt made a motion to approve Barry's invoice, Oram seconded. APPROVED

During the watershed luncheon at Green Mountain, Matt Howe reminded us about a presentation they did for us on salt reduction strategies. We should put this back on our agenda for discussion. Oram would also like to have the water quality numbers at that meeting as well.

There was also discussion about the increase in applications. GMCG is considering doing a consulting service.

The lawyer has the FCC rules. We expect something back before the next meeting.

Are we officially a 5 person board?

Public Comment

Adjournment – Alice made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 pm, Alice seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary