

Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 15 February 2022

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

1. Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, Robert Oram, Alice Custard, Matt Tyler. Sue Hoople is absent. A quorum is present.

Paul Elie, Corey Lane, Kaitlyn from GMCG, two other members of the public are also present.

2. Business properly presented to the Commission

1. Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) Presentation of water testing results – a presentation was distributed and explained by Kaitlyn from Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Danforth Outlet – good, within limits.

Cold Brook – monitored year round. Ph was worsening. Turbidity and phosphorus were stable. Turbidity was good. Dissolved oxygen also good.

In all 10 sites - Fluoride numbers were stable, but high for typical freshwater body.

Calcium levels have decreased. This is happening globally.

West Branch – Ph is a concern. Total phosphorus had a lot of variability and highest levels in 5 years. Dissolved oxygen is OK.

Cold Brook – near Danforth Outlet – summer site. Ph was consistently lower in 2021.

Huckins Outflow – summer site. Same trend with consistently lower Ph levels. Dissolved oxygen was a little better in 2021.

Square Brook – looked good. Conductivity was higher than 100. There has been some human influence that would cause that. Monitored year round. Chloride was a little higher. Calcium was decreasing.

The 15 year water quality report indicates that Freedom sampling sites had good water quality and fell within most of the acceptable limits.

CF3 had the highest level of concerns.

Encourage residents to get their septic systems checked. Road salt usage, maintain riparian buffers, implement best management practices, and monitor effectiveness of culverts.

Jeff asked about data that is still pending on Loon Lake and Round Pond. That data is on a priority list, and they would like to have it done by the end of the month. Will this report be updated once the newer sample data is received? Samples have quality assurance procedures. They can only stay frozen for a year. Some of the dates may have passed.

A booklet of a program done with the Freedom Elementary School was given to the Board.

Jill's lab will be updated so there will be less dependency on the UNH lab. They hope to have it done by May.

Paul Elie spoke about salt being a problem. Is there a recommended product? We are referred to saltresponsibly.com as a resource.

2. Wetland Permit Application - 55 Packard Drive – this will be a perched beach. There is a separate application for that. We do not have that application. We will put together communication asking when we can expect the full application with plans for the perched beach. A motion to send the letter of inquiry was made by Alice, seconded by Matt. APPROVED

3. ZBA Application for Variance and Special Exception - 167 Haverhill Street – they are looking for a variance on the 75’ setback from the water. Stormwater mitigation is to be installed. The patio is the part in question, it is beyond the setback. The house is pushed back. There needs to be something more than lawn – eg – ground cover, succulents, water bars. There appears to be a 2’ drop over the length of the lawn. Check the trees being removed for the new building. A schematic of the existing trees is requested, and a tree cutting plan.

Alice made a motion to send these requests, Oram seconded. APPROVED

3. Correspondence / Information / Discussion

1. Approval of 18 January 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes – Oram commented on page 2 – Gary is the code officer. Add Freedom Code Officer Gary Williams on the first mention of Gary. Sue asked if one member could go out with him. This is not allowed by statute. Permission could be sought from the landowner. The Code Officer needs to go by himself. On item 4 – under forest inspection – Oram suggests that we grid Trout Pond. Ask for locations of the inspections that are done, and why? – Alice made a motion to approve as amended, Oram seconded. APPROVED

2. Discussion of Rte 25 Gas Station Groundwater protection initiative – a draft letter was presented as a starting point for discussion. Oram suggests that it be 3 paragraphs, one page. He offered other ideas for editing. Change the items like “like to express” to “is expressing”. This is in the court system, but the Planning Board is still moving forward with site plan review. Previously this Board discussed the issue and felt that the court would make the decision. Paul Elie states that many groups have written letters for topics such as this. He feels that we should express that we are concerned as we are a regional abutter. ZBA and Planning Board are land use boards. Paul feels that it is important for this Board and the Selectboard to address this issue. The Selectmen referred residents back to this Board with their concerns. Oram asks if the Selectmen will be signing the letter. The Board is supportive of the Selectmen signing the letters. Make the letter say “Proposed Gas Station within the Ossipee Aquifer on Route 25 in Effingham”. We can prepare a document that we can submit for the Selectmen to consider signing. Put more emphasis on making this a regional issue. One Page – three paragraphs
Change Conservation Commission to Selectmen

Take out the first paragraph, move the second paragraph up.
“Freedom Board of Selectmen” express their concerns.
Remove “we believe” – target language/positive.
Why are we concerned? Make paragraph 3 into paragraph 2.
The third paragraph should be the last paragraph from the draft letter. Add “of” between Town and Freedom. Add in Board of Selectmen/FCC.
Paul Elie liked the letter from Porter, signed by 3 parties.
Matt made a motion to accept the corrected draft as done tonight, Alice seconded.
APPROVED

3. Approval of invoices – none. 2022 Forest Management Services Agreement – Barry Keith – needs a signature. It is exactly the same as last year’s. Oram made a motion to table this to allow the Board to review the document and bring input to the next meeting. Matt seconded. APPROVED Jeff will get copies to the members. He has copies of old documents from the town regarding past forestry. That will be available to review for the next meeting. The FAC needs to be present for the discussion regarding the current contract.

4. Other business to come before the commission – The Town needs an FCC tally vote for Article 27 and Article 28.
Article 27 – what is the money spent on? Signs, etc
Article 28 – by the stewardship plan, we have to have a forester. FCC recommends
Oram made a motion to approve Article 27 and Article 28 as written – Matt seconded.
APPROVED 4-0

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment – Oram made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, Matt seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on February 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary