

# **Freedom Conservation Commission**

**Tuesday, 15 March 2022**

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

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

Discussion of agenda items was held amongst the Board. Item 3.2 has an expansion due to a request from the Freedom Selectboard. There is a typo – approval of 2-15 meeting minutes should have been item 2.1, so it will be done first.

**Approval of 15 February 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes** – Alice made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

## **Business properly presented to the Commission**

**Danforth Pond Cyanobacteria Presentation by Frank Lalumiere, Bruce Howlett** materials were provided to the Board. Frank Lalumiere is Bruce Howlett are present. Kathy Lalumiere, Martha and her husband are also present. They are all waterfront residents at Danforth Bay. There have been 8 incidents of cyanobacteria outbreaks in the past couple of years. The Ossipee Lake Watershed Management action plan was discussed. Low ph, no oxygen or low oxygen and high phosphorous content are problems that arise from septic systems, fertilizers, etc. Danforth phosphorous counts are rising. The Freedom Master Plan excerpts outline the importance of water quality. The Friends of Danforth group has been formed to bring people together with Cons. Commission and Selectboard to set goals, metrics, etc. to overcome this problem. They are partnering with the Green Mountain Conservation Group to work on this problem as well. They would like to fund testing on the middle pond. Best Management Practices need to be implemented. Homeowner education and a steering committee are discussed also. They would like to execute the watershed management plan. Long term goals are to incorporate the Friends of Danforth group, seek long term funding and develop a sustainable funding plan. Milfoil harvesting has come up a couple of times. Diver assisted suction harvesting as opposed to herbicides is a topic that they would like to work on. Perhaps issue another survey regarding septic systems on Danforth. Stormwater management involves the homes as well as the roads. The vision would be a collaborative effort with the Conservation Commission to fix this before it becomes really bad. Bruce Howlett - there are currently two testing programs in Freedom – one that the State does and one that is done through Green Mountain. DES found that there was random testing done in the past that shows that Middle Danforth behaves as its own separate entity. Additional testing was done last fall. It has gotten worse from 15 years ago and behaves differently than Lower

Danforth. The group is going to fund testing through Green Mountain – the Lakes Lay Monitoring program. Next season will cost over \$2000. They will test Middle Danforth. There is testing taking place as Huckins comes into the Middle Danforth. Shawtown Brook will also have a testing program. The concern is that there may be runoff from logging operations. The brook testing will cost approximately \$800/year. Green Mountain feels that we should be able to meet with the State and have them buy into the idea of testing Middle Danforth, and the Friends of Danforth would have to figure out how to test Shawtown Brook. Sue Hoople asked about the increased amount of people swimming sue to Danforth Resort. Green Mountain will also be doing storm event testing. Martha spoke about some suggestions that she has regarding phosphorous. Consider legacy nutrients. The testing will show how much legacy phosphorous there is. Alum has been used in wastewater treatment plants for many years. Solitude Management does alum treatments. NH DES did a project in Barrington NH last year. There are also sonic systems. Long Lake in Pelham NH has this system. It worked very well. Oxygen Saturation Technology is another treatment option, and is provided by Solitude. Jeff Nicoll spoke about a NH House Bill regarding cyano that has just passed. He also spoke about alum treatment and that it may not be possible for all bodies of water. Linda Mailhot spoke about a postcard reminder to homeowners to abate phosphorous/runoff would be helpful. They have sent letters/pamphlets and had informational meetings. They are also working on a newsletter. The President of the Berry Bay Association mentioned partnering up with other associations.

**Expedited Minimum Impact (EXP) Wetlands Permit Application** - 80 Berry Bay Rd – Oram asked if there is going to be a space on the steps between the boards, and Anne Cunningham answered in the affirmative. He noted that a correction needed to be made in the statement, to make it say will as opposed to will not. The Conservation Commission has the ability to sign and waive their right to intervention. A motion to sign off on the intervention was made by Sue, seconded by Oram. APPROVED

**ZBA Application for Variance and Special Exception** - 21 Swasey Road – Loon Lake – driveway widening, patio structure are proposed. There is a proposed infiltration trench in front of the patio. Need information:

- Overall dimensions of the structure, materials
- Pitch and proximity to lake
- What is under the boards to retain water
- Upper stairs?
- Sides of deck need better infiltration
- Slope of deck location at 18.2
- Nothing out in front? What is it? Vegetation – plantings and waterbars
- Jeff will compose a letter with these concerns.

**Correspondence / Information / Discussion**

**Water quality test results review and plan forward** – this report indicates that Freedom water has good quality. Jeff asked Jill Emerson at GMCG for assistance with interpretation of their results. Trends are: salinity issue trending up at a lot of locations; ph, total phosphorous and salinity are the trends. Research should be done on reducing road salt, learn from Madison’s implementation. Phosphorous loading affects cyanobacteria and milfoil. Discuss how milfoil is handled. Oram would like to see the document that indicates that the herbicide contributes to the cyano problem. Sue asked about mixing alum with the salt where it runs off. Oram asked about this document for Ossipee and Effingham. He spoke about having a work session. The Ossipee Lake Alliance is interested in getting all parties together to work on issues. Next time we meet we will have Round Pond and Loon Lake data.

Oram suggested approving invoices at this point in the meeting, Alice seconded. APPROVED

**Approval of invoices and contracts**

Invoice for membership dues to Conservation Commission – Oram made a motion to pay, Alice seconded. APPROVED

**Meena, LLC proposed gas station update** – Jeff presented a draft letter to the Selectmen. They considered it and felt that it would be better if it came from us. They stated if there was regional impact status, they would then address it. The letter was sent. Effingham voted to include us as regional impact. Yesterday the selectmen met and received a letter from the Town of Effingham, with the application from Meena, LLC. It has been accepted as complete. Abutter status for testimony has been granted. The hearing is on April 7 at 6:45 pm. The Selectmen would like us to review the application and provide our opinion to the Selectboard as to what their response should include. Oram feels that the letter that was previously written is the feedback we should issue. The property is on the recharge zone for the aquifer. Even without a catastrophic event, there are drips and drops on the property that the stormwater will carry into the basin. Bryan Taylor spoke about meetings in Effingham – the grandfather status has expired. The zoning challenge is still in the courts. Oram feels that Jeff should write the letter, stating what he has spoken of this evening.

Jean Marshall – there are two meetings – a Selectboard meeting and a meeting in Effingham on April 7. The Selectboard will be meeting here at this building this Monday.

Oram will be attending on the 7<sup>th</sup>, as a stakeholder. Jeff will attend as a representative of Freedom.

Jeff will review the main topics and bring them to the Selectboard. Whatever is drafted should be applicable for both of the inquiries. Appointed Elected should be added. A motion to have Jeff draft the letter was made by Alice, seconded by Alice. APPROVED

**Other business to come before the commission** – Bryan Taylor – does the town have a natural resources inventory? It can be found at the library and the Town office.

**Public Comment** - none

**Adjournment** – Sue made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm, Oram seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Donaldson  
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on March 8, 2022.