

Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 19 April 2022

7:00 pm at the Freedom Town Hall

1. Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, Alice Custard, Sue Hoople, R.A. Oram. Present from the Forest Advisory Committee are: John Roman, Justin Brooks, Sean Coriaty, Ron Newbury and Melissa Florio-Selectmen's Representative.

Public Present: Ned Kucera, Paul Elie and Linda Mailhot, Dave George is also present.

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

Move agenda item 4 ahead of item 3 – a motion to do so was made by Jeff, seconded by Alice. APPROVED

4. Combined meeting of FAC/FCC to discuss future operations in the town forest – Discussion topics were distributed.

Attendance and membership update, officer positions for FAC – The Selectboard has been doing recruiting. Justin, Sean and Janet are back on the Committee at this time. Officers are not decided at this time. The Selectboard Representative is a voting member. Oram requested a document indicating that the representative is to be a voting member. Melissa will ask Ellen for that document. Oram suggested dropping the number of voting members to 5 instead of 7. Justin indicated that he is willing to chair the committee.

Meeting schedule for 2022 – quarterly minimum – Ron feels that every other month would be reasonable. Justin feels that there is going to be a lot of activity going on, and suggests that monthly meetings be held.

An additional timber harvest has been mentioned by the Forester. There are no details available at this time. Bond and bid process are items to consider if there is to be another cut. We would like a review of the Stewardship Program and a plan from the forester. Ask Barry to attend a meeting to present ideas to us.

The grant application for trail work was mentioned. Melissa mentioned that Ellen may be able to do the writing of the grant. Oram made a motion to move forward with the grant application, Alice seconded. APPROVED Melissa Florio will work on moving this project forward.

John spoke to Scott in regards to the beaver problem. The FCC has money and can buy the culvert if need be. He will check out Jackman Road to see if the rake needs to be brought in. Dave cleared out the culvert last week. Fish and Game indicated that the Selectboard will have the final decision of what the beaver control method will be. A proposal is needed for the work that the Road Agent will potentially be doing.

Scrub Oaks has asked the Selectmen about putting in a gate, and the Selectmen have approved that.

Is there a way to unify our efforts with those of the Scrub Oak Scramblers in regards to the maintenance that is being done? Ron spoke about the kiosks and the maintenance he does on those. One of them needs some work on the roof. Dave will be an ongoing advisor to the FCC. There is new flagging in the area behind Alice's house, so that may be where the next cut is being considered.

The Fire Chief has indicated that there is difficulty with identifying the areas around Trout Pond in the event of an emergency. We need a point of contact from the FAC to be at those workshops. Oram is the volunteer from the FCC. Thursday, May 5 at 7 pm, at the town hall - is the date that is chosen for the workshop.

The 2022 Forest Management Agreement is pending input from the FAC before the FCC signs it. John Roman made a motion to accept Barry's contract for the year. Jeff recommends that the FAC review the contract at their next meeting, and come back to the FAC with their vote. In their discussion, consider whether this should go out to bid for transparency purposes. The motion was tabled.

Jeff recommended a change to the agenda, to bring other items to come before the commission to this point in the agenda.

6. Other business to come before the commission – Ned Kucera – water quality report. Green Mountain has produced a proposal that will cover Round Pond this year. The Loon Lake Association wanted to do this testing last year. The Town jumped in and covered Round Pond last year. The FAISC wanted to see the report before deciding to move forward this year or not. Loon Lake was a little high on phosphorous, but otherwise OK. The FAISC would like to continue with the 50/50 split on Loon Lake costs. \$1500 was given last year for the testing. Jeff spoke with Jill at Green Mountain. We are budgeted to give \$1500 again this year. The testing can be scaled back to monthly data points if the cost needs to be reduced. The FAISC is comfortable with paying \$720 this year as their portion. Jeff will contact GMCG to see what alternative testing options are.

Ned gave an update on the FAISC. Paperwork has been submitted. We are waiting for inspections to see what is coming up this year. Diving is planned for, and herbicide for 20 acres has been secured. Michel has taken over the lake hosting. The grant from NH Lakes has been approved. He will begin the hiring process.

3. Business properly presented to the Commission

1. Palacio Revocable Trust of 2012 – for a small perched beach, steps and a walkway. The plan does not indicate what the front of the perched beach will be. No removal of vegetation of point value will be taking place. Discussion is held about the drainage swail that is proposed. A large copy of the plan is needed. Where is the water from the garage going to go? There are no infiltration trenches around it. Where is the runoff from the roof going? Has this been considered in the swail?

2. Daniel Mullane & Juliann Samaro – Sherwood Forest Way – new single family home. Tree removal within the shorefront district. Stormwater mitigation is proposed around the house.

3. Caitlin C Sackman Rev. Trust – variance and special exception – this is for a retaining wall within the setbacks. Oram feels that they need to have some kind of

planting on the area that was cut. Need engineered retaining wall infiltration. There is no infiltration noted around the house or deck either. Mention steep slope in the letter. Water bars are needed. The ordinance was just changed in regards to calculating slopes within the construction area, not the entire lot.

4. Martin D Sholomith – addition of stairway, dock, beach. Impervious area being created is an issue. There is nothing to indicate what types of planting, water bars, infiltration, mitigation strategies are going to be. We recommend against the variance. Runoff is a concern. Unwillingness to replant is also a concern. There are no details on the wood retaining wall down by the beach. No details given about the beach. Septic concern.

5. Wetlands Permit – Spindle Point. Daniel Ryan. We have 14 days to intervene with the State if we have an issue. Discussion was held about this process. A procedure needs to be put into place for future situations with this.

5. Approval of invoices and contracts -

7. Public Comment

8. Adjournment – Sue made a motion to adjourn at 9:29 pm, Jeff seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closes at 12pm on April 12, 2022.