

# Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 19 July 2022

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

1. Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order by Jeff Nicoll at 7:02 pm. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, R A Oram, Sue Hoople, Alice Custard, Linda Mailhot. A quorum is present. Audience – Jay Kenty (public), Rob Cunio(Fire Department), Barry Keith (Forester), Paul Elie (public).

2. Approval of 21 June 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes – Alice made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

A request to move the Forest trail map draft to this point in the agenda was made. Jeff made a motion to reorder the agenda to review the Trout Pond Trail Map draft on the agenda here, Linda seconded. APPROVED

7. Review of Trout Pond Trail Map Draft – Jeff gave an overview of this project. Rob Cunio spoke about the history and need for these updates. Barry commented that Mary’s Mountain Footpath is not in the legend. The State easement has specifics about what snowmobile trails are so the map should be reviewed against the language of the easement. The names listed as “formerly” was a good idea. Forest Legacy and easement monitor should review the new names.

Jeff made a motion to approve the draft of the map and move it forward to the Selectmen. Oram seconded. APPROVED

Next steps are signage quotes and Selectboard review. Also the snowmobile trails and easement information will need to be addressed.

Jeff’s initial research indicates that the signage will cost approximately \$800 to \$1000. Barry spoke about issues that the State may have with signs/advertisement. US Forest Service has signage guidelines online.

Jeff made a motion to preapprove a budget of \$1000 +/- 10% for Town Forest signage. Oram seconded. APPROVED

Jay Kenty is present for item 4.3 – 13 Swasey Road.

Oram made a motion to deal with that application at this point in the meeting, Alice seconded. APPROVED

4.3 Application for ZBA Special Exception: 13 Swasey Road. Mr. Kenty explained that all the changes are happening further away from the shorefront. Oram spoke about installation of water bars or appropriate plantings to slow the runoff into the lake. Mr.

Kenty explained that the retaining wall will be to hold up the edge of the driveway. This is minimal impact in regards to trees. Placement of septic is good. Slow the runoff to the lake.

Jeff made a motion to resume Town Forest Contract discussion and combine it with the meeting with the Town Forester. Alice seconded. APPROVED

3. Town Forest Contract Discussion – Jeff introduced the background of the Town’s efforts regarding contracts, sub-contractors, etc. A standardized contract was provided. The tasks highlighted in the contract will make updating the stewardship plans, and increase communication between the FCC, Forester and the FAC. The draft contract is to be reviewed by this Board and the Forester. After approval, it will go to the Selectmen to be reviewed by legal department.

Linda and Alice feel that this contract will be helpful to all parties.

Sue asked about who would be the contracting entity. The FCC is the contracting entity.

Forestry consultation and operational support. Include FAC everywhere that FCC is. The FAC is not the contracting entity.

Alice asked about #3 on page 4 – historically contracts were from the first of the year to December 31. Budgets are not set on that schedule. Changing the time frame of the contract will help with budgeting. The Board agrees that this would make sense.

Add FAC with FCC on #6. Define the approval process chain. (per the stewardship plan)

Input from Barry: Contracts are not out of the ordinary. This is his first look at the contract. The tasks appear to be verbatim. Lack of communication has been a problem. The Town’s budget is done on a fiscal calendar year, which may affect the changing of the dates of the contract.

Barry provided a copy of communication recommendations (see attached).

Oram made a motion that Barry has a working copy of the draft contract and he will take his work copy directly to the Office. They will forward to Jeff and we will review at the next meeting. We will hold off on legal advice until we have Barry’s comments.

Barry would like 2 weeks to review. Alice seconded. APPROVED

Barry did not receive tonight’s agenda. He has been receiving the FAC minutes and agendas.

In the past he attended a joint meeting between the FAC and the FCC.

He reviewed his list of comments with the Board. He would like to have periodic site walks with the Board. He spoke about the development of a Fire Plan with the Nature Conservancy.

4. Business properly presented to the Commission

1. Shoreland permit application: 442 Huckins Rd – This is not a shorefront lot. No action
2. Application for ZBA Special Exception: 442 Huckins Road – Everything we would recommend under normal circumstances are not applicable as any runoff from this lot will go to the road, not the lake.
3. Application for ZBA Special Exception: 13 Swasey Rd – see above
4. Intent to Cut Review – we get these after they have already occurred. Request that the office look for the items required by law...wetlands, etc. Could Gary Williams do this? Hold for future workshop.

5. Meeting with Town Forester scheduled for 8:00 pm. – see above

6. Review and discussion of FAC Draft Minutes from July 6, 2022 Meeting – Oram suggested that the FAC should be looking at ash borers, etc. as ongoing projects. The proposed contract will be sent to the FAC for review as well as Barry's recommendations.

8. Approval of invoices and contracts – none

9. Other business to come before the commission

10. Public Comment

11. Adjournment – Linda made a motion to adjourn at 9:22 pm, Sue seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Donaldson  
Recording Secretary