

# Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 20 September 2022

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

## Minutes

- Quorum Check, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Linda Mailhot, Alice Custard, Sue Hoople. A quorum is present.

- Approval of 16 August 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes –absent has an “n”, not “m”. Clarification page 2 – review of FAC draft 7/6/22 – Oram’s motion was to not review the remainder of the FAC minutes from August 3 at this time. Alice made a motion to approve as amended, Oram seconded. APPROVED

- Review and discussion of FAC meeting minutes – the balance of the 8/3 minutes have not been reviewed yet. Pick up where we left off .... There are four bullets remaining. There was nothing further on the minutes for us to review. The FCC did not receive notification that the September FAC meeting was cancelled. FCC will be notified of future cancellations in a timely manner.

- Business properly presented to the commission

- Lakes Region Conservation Trust; Anne Turner Packard Conservation Project. – Ms. Sylvestri of Lakes Region Trust is here to speak about the initiative – working to protect 27 acres of property at the beginning of Square Brook, that leads into Berry Bay. They are seeking consideration of a donation that can be used as a challenge in their next fundraising effort. The bulk of the value of the property is being donated, the purchase price is \$10,000. \$18,000 has been raised so far. Matt Howe is present tonight, not as the Executive Director of GMCG, but in support of the initiative on the land. THE GMCG Board supports this initiative unanimously. The main intention of conserving this land is for water quality and wildlife habitat. A donation would need to be requested through Town Meeting. An alternative could be to look at taking money for a donation from the fund that we have from donations to us. Jeff indicated that we will do our research and see what we can do to support such efforts. The property is going to be managed as a preserve, which allows people in on a very limited basis. Oram has concerns that someone would want to cut trees there in the future. LRCT and GMCG have no intention of harvesting the property.

- ZBA Application : 496 Pequawket Trail – this is for a garage within the protective shoreline. Oram has a concern about the square feet of lot coverage as compared to the lot size. The total area of lot in square feet is not accurate. The proposed garage is shown on the plan but is not in the narrative. No vegetation plan is shown.

Address the proposed garage that is not in narrative

Details on the garage’s impact on lot, square footage of it and the associated driveway

Is it going to be a garage?

Narrative states .83 acres, 36,154 square feet. The dimensions of the proposed garage are shown on the second page of the maps, and listed in the information block on the bottom left corner of the first page of the plan.

Jeff will send a note to the ZBA regarding inconsistencies between the narrative and the plan.

- ZBA Application: 364 Pequawket Trail – retaining walls, completion of path to lake, stepping stones and steps in the path. Expansion of nonconforming retaining wall. The ZBA kicked it back due to something with the retaining wall. This new plan is favorable by the Conservation Commission. Nothing will be sent to the ZBA from this Board.

- Water quality initiatives and discussion – Matt Howe feels that Jill Emerson will come in Jan/February. GMCG is currently testing a couple of sites in Ossipee Lake for microplastics. The State tests for PFAS in various locations. Mr. Howe explained that microplastics are a global issue. Sue feels that we should partner with/financially support GMCG with their microplastics testing. Sue will contact Jill Emerson to speak about the microplastics testing. Jeff requested that Jill isolate what the town can do to improve areas of concern for water quality and present those ideas to this Board. A watershed assistance grant has been requested from the State of NH by the Friends of Danforth group and GMCG. This will cover project identified in the 2017 Watershed Management Plan. Sue will be in the agenda next month to discuss, Jill will be invited to next month’s meeting.

- Other business to come before the commission – Forester contract was signed yesterday. Jeff made a motion to execute the contract, Oram seconded. APPROVED This will retain the forester through April. Insurance protections are now included, will have to follow this with the Town Office. Reporting requirements are laid out. Scope of work as presented by Barry Keith is in the contract, but there will be no further cuts this year. This is a time and materials contract, hourly.

Trail map workshop – Jeff met with Steven Walker, the monitor of the Town Forest. He presented the map and signage, and to gather feedback. They will send feedback to the group by the end of the week. FAC, FCC members as well as the forester are invited to attend the next inspection they do, likely in October.

Jeff will inquire with Gary Williams regarding a property on Loon Lake that is doing a lot of work on their property.

Oram would like to have all the “nature” organizations in the area meet here (upstairs) to lay out what we are attempting to do (coordinate all efforts on specific issues). Establish a network/consortium. Have a moderator at the meeting.

- Public Comment

- Adjournment – Linda made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm, Alice seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Donaldson  
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on September 13, 2022.