

Freedom Forest Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 5, 2022
Freedom Town Hall
7:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Janet Johnson. Present are: Janet Johnson, Ron Newbury, Janet Meyers, Paul Olzerowicz-Planning Board Representative, John Roman-Alternate. Sean Coriaty and Les Babb are absent.

Dave George – Scrub Oak Scramblers, is also present.

- Approve Minutes August 3, 2022 – Janet felt that the prior contract was adequate. Add an “s” to Meyer. Paul made a motion to approve as amended, Ron seconded.. APPROVED
- September meeting was canceled
- Review FCC Aug/Sept. Minutes – Stacy “Bolduc” – Jill’s last name should be on there. Lakes Region Conservation Trust – is that an actual trust? Ask Jeff Nicoll about this.
- Elect FAC Chair and Vice Chair – Paul O. made a motion that Janet Johnson be chairperson, and Janet Meyers be the vice chair, Ron seconded. APPROVED
- Janet would like to propose to the FCC a date that a joint meeting can be held. An invitation to FCC to attend the FAC meeting on November 2 will be sent out.

Paul asked about FCC/FAC notations in the contract.

- 7:15 Meeting with Forester, Barry Keith to go over needs/projects for the next 6 months. Barry understands that the FAC is the day to day body that works with him to implement items in the forest. Barry puts together work plans and end of year summaries. The work plan for the upcoming year is presented in draft form to the FAC, which is then forwarded to the FCC. The \$3000 budget is assumed to be carried forward from previous years due to Covid. John Roman explained that the town had gifts that came in for the Forest. The timber tax from the logging should have added about \$4000 back into the fund for the forest. The amount should have been a total of \$44,000. John will check to be sure that the tax was allocated back to the Forest.

Janet J. distributed a list of tasks that were originally in Barry’s notes for review tonight.

Jackman Ridge Rd.(now Trout Pond Trail) grading – Town crew or out to bid? Speak with FCC about the process at the November meeting. Barry suggests creating a sub fund to use for trail and road maintenance. Dave spoke about the

snowmobile club having done repairs to the trails in the past, and mentions that this could possibly be part of process. Barry feels that there are opportunities for future grants that may help with the road maintenance. Dave suggests breaking the road work into sections.

Brushing and removal of down wood – the snowmobile club does a lot of this work, on a volunteer basis.

Roadside mowing – the snowmobile club does the trails. They are not sure what is happening with the other roads and the fertilizing. Barry says money was supposed to be allocated for this. Dave George needs information about what fertilizer and lime is supposed to be used.

2 bridges (gates) need repair – Shawtown Brook and Shawtown Road. – this needs to be clarified. Barry's notes speak about annual spring inspection. No road work was done in 2022. Needs to be on hold until 2023. The funds would normally come from the forest maintenance account. Barry spoke about a special account that is held for Change of Use fees on Current Use properties. Research the funds that are available. Gates on Goe Hill and Shawtown Road – were put in by the Town of Madison. Dave George clarified that the gate going toward Fords was done by the snowmobile club. The gate at Goe Hill is too small (green gate). It does not allow vehicles larger than a pickup truck through. Ask the Fire Chief if the equipment he uses would fit through that gate. In the future the bridges may need repairs.

Beaver pipe, removal of beavers – Dave is pulling out the dams daily. Remove the rusty culvert that Dave was able to remove from the water. Ron made a motion to make a recommendation that removal of the rodents be an ongoing process. Another recommendation is that the beaver pipe be correctly re-installed. Barry mentioned that this is also considered a fire/emergency cross trail that needs to stay open. Can monies be extracted from the maintenance fund? It would be good to do this repair before the ice sets in.

York raking the airstrip – in the past the snowmobile club did the smoothing of the parking area.

Janet J. spoke about the need for a formal agreement with the Scrub Oak Scramblers.

DNCR – ATV signs have been put up. Ron did this.

The FCC does not have a contact person/representative from the FAC.

Oram mentioned looking at ash borers. There is very little ash in the forest. The level of moth infestation was reported to the State in the spring.

Boundary line painting – Ron has expressed a willingness to do some of this.

Barry shared a copy of the perimeter survey of the forest property. This maintenance blazing needs to become an annual process. The areas that border house lots should be a priority. There are areas that have more than one blaze line. Barry has easement signs from the State that can be put out at the same time the blazing is done.

Barry presented a list of projects that he can complete with what money is left in the budget for this year.

Administration/Coordination –the new contract requires more extensive reporting

Site inspections – 2 are planned, one in the spring after mud season

State Easement people- usually come out around this time to do their inspection. This is a requirement of the easement document.

Discussion about meetings/attending meetings. One in the spring FCC/FAC joint meeting in the spring. November will be another.

Boundary coordination – flagging sections and walking with Ron. The blazing needs to be done the right way, and should not be done in the spring. In the past he would get the materials and be reimbursed. He now does not have the ability to do that with this contract. Barry will give the information on what is needed to Ron, who will get the items that are needed and submit for reimbursement. Boundary blazing should begin as soon as possible. A new set of boundary survey plans should be acquired from HEB Engineers, one for the town and one as a working copy. This will need to go the FCC for approval. Janet made a motion to accept the proposed BHK list of services to be performed dated October 4, Ron seconded. APPROVED

Paul O. notes that the State monitoring requirement (hours) are not listed on the contract.

In the contract it was wiped out that Barry was to have any contact with the Nature Conservancy. They do inspections – pitch pine and burning. A prescribed burn plan was made. A grant was received. A town warrant article was granted to pay to the Nature Conservancy. Barry does not know where those funds are. He had a meeting with TNC, and they are working on the burn plan, and will send their draft plan to Barry. He would have them come to Freedom to present the plan to the joint boards. The grant timeframe may have passed, this needs to be researched.

Janet J. invited Barry to the joint meeting on November 2.

- Miscellaneous Correspondence/Invoices

- Public comment.
- Such business as properly presented

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm, Janet M. seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary