

The Forest Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
at the Freedom Town Hall
7:00 pm.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Janet Johnson. Present are: FAC members – Janet Johnson, Janet Meyers, Ron Newbury, Sean Coriaty, Ron Newbury, Les Babb-Selectmen’s Representative, Paul Olzerowicz-Planning Board Representative

FCC members – Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Sue Hoople, Alice Custard

Barry Keith-Forester is also present.

- Approve Minutes October 5, 2022 – Paul O. made a motion to approve, Janet M. seconded. APPROVED unanimously
- Review FCC October 18, 2022 Minutes – not reviewed at this point.
- 7:15 Joint Meeting with FCC
 - a. Review and vote on BHK Services Proposal- an outline of Barry’s hours was distributed and discussed. Barry explained the list of proposed hours on specific tasks. The State will be here on the 8th of November at 9 am at Barry’s office to do their inspection. Anyone who is available is welcome to attend the meeting. A work plan for the next year has not been done yet, so cannot be presented to the State at that meeting. Barry can create a draft for 2023 and distribute it to both committees. The proposed hours distributed are intended to run through the end of this year (March). Discussion was held regarding the maintenance fund and the forester fund. Janet made a motion for the FCC to approve the hours. Oram asked about the hourly rate, which is \$50. per hour. Barry is authorized to meet with the State next week.

Ron has repainted the boundaries that were clear to him along the forest’s eastern boundary. Approximately 8775 feet have been painted. An additional 7150 feet have been flagged with orange surveyor’s tape to be painted later. The State will be bringing more signs when they come.
 - b. Determine projects for 2023/2024 that require Town Meeting Warrant Articles. – road maintenance will be the big item. He estimates a minimum of \$25,000. An estimate is typically

sought in order to write a warrant article. An estimate has been received from GW Brooks, for \$34,000 +/- . Special revenue account is based on forest cuts, etc. There is another account for gifts that have been received for the Forest. The maintenance fund has \$78,504. The stewardship fund has \$27,146. A warrant article needs to be done to take money from the account. Maintenance on wildlife fields and mowing has been put off in the past. Barry mentioned that there may be some grants available to help with those projects. The gift account does not need approval from the town. There is also a fund of \$25,298 for wildlife habitat. A metal pipe in the beaver area needs to be taken care of. Wildlife habitat money needs to be in the budget that is presented to the Town.

- c. Discuss procedure for projects that require money.- see above. The FCC meets with the budget committee on December 5. Barry will compose a draft for 2023 with estimated expense numbers for the FCC and FAC to discuss. Barry spoke about the possibilities of receiving grants being high. Having a joint meeting with the Nature Conservancy regarding the controlled burns is suggested. In the past, money needed for the preparation of the grants was taken from the gift or wildlife funds, depending on what the grant was going to be used for.
- d. Any other concerns. – Oram asked for the additional pages of the contract, beyond the portion that was distributed at this meeting, which was exhibit A – scope of work. Paul O. asked about the harvesting being suspended for 2022 contract, which goes through 2023.

- Miscellaneous Correspondence/Invoices - none
- Public comment.
- Such business as properly presented

Discussion was held regarding the reimbursement process for Ron when he bought paint.

Janet M. made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm, Paul O. seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary