

## Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 18 October 2022

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

1. Quorum Check, Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present: Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Alice Custard, Sue Hoople, Linda Mailhot. A quorum is present. Ron Newbury, Mark McConkey, Matt Howe, Jill Emerson, Barbara McEvoy is also present.
2. Approval of 20 September 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes – add last names to Jill and Stacy (Emerson and Bolduc). Alice made a motion to approve as amended, Sue seconded. APPROVED
3. Discussion of Invasive species, Japanese Knotweed in Freedom, Allotted time 15 minutes – Barbara McEvoy presented this information. Knotweed is the world's worst invasive species. There is some growing on Cushing Corner Road and Route 153. Photos were distributed. Sue asked how Bittersweet is rated on the invasive species list. Barbara is here to say that we need to do something about the knotweed. Jeff spoke about Douglas Signon, who is the Invasive Species Coordinator at the NH Dept of Agriculture. This commission will discuss this further with the State contact and the Town Forester. Barbara offered to be on a committee if one is formed.
4. Business properly presented to the commission
  1. ZBA Application : 496 Pequawket Trail – we reviewed this last month and sent a letter to the ZBA with some questions. Mark McConkey, Agent for that project is here tonight to answer questions and such. The project has been continued to next month's ZBA meeting. We had a concern about a square footage discrepancy, impervious surface calculations. The tree point score was also a concern. Mark confirmed that there was a discrepancy with the square footage on the application when compared with the plan. The ZBA was concerned about structures being added were not floodproof. There was also a concern about adding a hot tub on top of a deck. The hot tub has been removed. The planting/green space brought the plan into compliance with shoreland regulations. Mr. McConkey needs to review more about planting more trees. Rip rap is going to be placed.

Drip lines on all of the structures are a concern of this Board. The existing garage is being repurposed into an entry on the back of the house. The proposed garage shown is not being constructed at this time. Mr. McConkey offered support with the State if the Commission needs it for knotweed removal grants.

5. Green Mountain Conservation Group, Jill Emerson and Matt Howe present for water quality workshop session.

Jeff began the discussion with the topics of water quality test results from past years and the trends that are shown from them. Salinity, cyanobacteria blooms, runoff are mentioned. 85% of sites tested are showing signs of increased salinity. Brining is one approach to correcting this problem. Brining uses approximately ¼ the amount of salt to produce the same result. You can also treat roads before storms. Numbers for amounts saved by brining are expected from the Town of Madison. Results for decreased salinity will not be immediate. Some towns designate low salt sections of roadway near waterbodies. The State can be petitioned to use less salt in areas of concern. Oram asked about Loon Lake results. The data for trends is not available yet, but there are signs of impact there. It is not problematic yet, but if it continues it will become a problem. Cold Brook is monitored year-round. Beaver are becoming a problem at that area. Jeff asked about return on investment and cost savings with brining. Bill Lord has said that he will pull together the numbers, Green Mountain Conservation has reached out to him to see if that information is available yet. Linda will take a list of questions to Bill Lord if Jeff wishes to send them along. Jill Emerson listed the places in Freedom that the water is tested. Matt Howe spoke about how the testing is funded, which varies by waterbody. Oram asked how the billing is done. His concern is that Trout Pond is not being tested. Green Mountain is concerned about hauling a boat up and down to Trout Pond all the time. They would like to store a rowboat there if they are asked to do the testing. Trout Pond water was previously tested and resulted at low ph. Shawtown Pond has not been tested in quite a while. Matt Howe estimated a one time test of Trout Pond would cost \$250-\$300. Comprehensive ongoing testing would cost \$2500-\$3000. Green Mountain will need to know by January if they want to do comprehensive ongoing testing.

Sue asked about microplastic testing. The testing was grant funded so they had to stay within the parameters of that grant. In the summer of 2023, they will be able to test new places if they want to. Sue is also concerned about the biosolid sludge spreading that is done in NH and Maine. The lagoon that

used to be on the Kennett land was discussed. Jill feels that this would be a question for Tara Schroeder.

Jeff brought up the topic of runoff from Town roads and buildings and areas that could be particularly vulnerable to runoff. Watershed management plans are available that have highlighted areas that could use best management practices. The plans are aging. Jill recommends that we do our own survey to look for areas that could be addressed. Many of the camps have installed rain gardens and infiltration stairways. Green Mountain Conservation encourages all towns in the Ossipee Watershed to switch to a brining system.

6. Review and discussion of FAC meeting minutes – Ron is here to discuss the marking of the boundaries in the Town Forest and he wants to make sure that it is approved by the Conservation Commission. Alice made a motion to approve this project, Sue seconded. APPROVED

Oram notes : Lakes Region Conservation Trust -156 Dane Road Center Harbor NH (603)253-3301

Meeting with Forest – amount should have been 44,000. Has John checked back to see if the timber tax was allocated back to the forest. Jeff will email the chairperson to see if this has been checked on. He was not aware that this was where the timber tax would go to.

The gate at Goe Hill is too small – it was installed by the Town of Madison. This will be addressed by Rob Cunio in the future, taking measurements of the forestry vehicle and comparing it to the gate size. Was the gate a “gift” from Madison? Verify ownership of the gate.

Boundary coordination – the minutes indicate that Barry is not able to purchase items. Oram read a line from the contract that included materials. There is concern about the contact with the Nature Conservancy. Paul O.’s comment about compliance hours not listed was mentioned.

The joint meeting between FCC/FAC should cover the contract. Jeff met with Janet Johnson today and explained the context of how the contract was created.

The FAC invited the FCC and the forester to their meeting on November 2.

7. Approval of invoices and contracts – invoice for NH Association of Conservation Commissions, \$250 for this year’s membership dues. Alice made a motion to pay, Sue seconded. APPROVED

8. Other business to come before the commission – A thank you note from Lakes Region Conservation Trust was received.

An application for volunteer appointment was received from Paul Elie. Discussion was held. The Commission is in support of having Paul join. Oram made a motion to accept the document for him to come on board, Alice seconded. APPROVED

FAC representative – rotate this task among the FCC members.

Jeff gave an update about the progress on the Town Forest map and showed the logo that he created.

9. Public Comment

Linda made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 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 October 11, 2022.