

FCC meeting 11/15/22
DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jeff Nicoll, Oram, Alice Custard, Linda Mailhot; Michele Keenan public

Meeting started at 7:15

Minutes - 10/18/22 meeting minutes reviewed; Oram - outstanding work on minutes; motion by Alice 2nd by Oram. Unanimous. Goe Hill gate in forest may be too small for emergency vehicles to fit. Oram to look into this with Chief Cunio.

Business 1 - 449 Pequawket; Per Jeff, NHDES must be revising their application as there is no place for FCC to sign-off allowing NHDES to do an expedited review. If we do not review the application before it goes to NHDES then NHDES reviews it and sends it to the ZBA who then sends it to FCC for review with full plans and details. Motion by Alice to table these two applications until we can get more info regarding the projects. 2nd by Oram. Unanimous vote

Business 2 - see above

Budget - The FCC meets with the selectmen on 12/05 to go over our proposed budget for next year. Our packets had a budget worksheet and listing of accounts we have. We have some additional items regarding forest maintenance, trail maps & signage. Funds will have to come from one of the special revenues/gift accounts. When the town forest was established it was designed to be self sustaining. These accounts are from those monies as well as timber harvest within the forest. When we request money to be pulled from those accounts we need a warrant article for the specific purpose. The forester budget is also a warrant article and it comes from that town forest maintenance fund. The other operating expense accounts are general operating accounts. We are going to go through and put some numbers down for these line items and talk about other items we may want to add such as increased testing. Jeff handed out an estimate for town forest maps and signage at \$1921.23. Start with budget workshop expenditures sheet - part time account (Melissa) should be changed to \$750 as Oram said he previously brought up that he wanted to have a meeting of a consortium of individuals that have an interest in the lake (Green Mountain, surrounding town conservation commissions, Ossipee Lake Alliance, etc.) to get everyone on the same page and hear all concerns. The thought is we would then send those initiatives forward looking for money from the State or other grant sources. We anticipate these would be ongoing meetings; Operating Supplies account this year is \$1200. Make it \$600 as we have over \$700 left for one month; Dues account is \$250 and stays the same; Meetings account is \$200 and leave as is; Training account is \$450 and leave as is; Water Quality Testing account is at \$4500 including Loon Lake & Round Pond. Green Mountain Conservation Group recommended adding 5% on to last years number. We want to do a baseline test for Trout Pond and Green Mountain said an initial test would be around \$900, and we

will take on logistics for boat access. The above adjustments make this now \$5625. This is the minimum for us to present in December. We also have forest activities including Stewardship inspection and Jackman Ridge Rd has some erosion issues. Selectmen received a quote from GW Brooks to repair damaged sections of that road and to properly crown the road. That was \$35,000. We need to have a discussion about this with the selectmen stating we are looking to get additional bids so that we have 3. Also Jeff spoke with Barry and he is working on his budget for next year. We need his input before the 12/05 meeting, but we do not have a business meeting prior to the 12/05. Oram said this was discussed at the 11/02 meeting with FAC, and has he been asked to supply us with that information for the 12/05 meeting. Oram asked Jeff to send Barry an email with a CC to Janet Johnson to follow up on his budget numbers based on conversations at the 11/02 meeting. His numbers also have to go to FAC first and then us per chain of command. That would be a warrant article; The Maintenance account is the one that will require warrant article language and will need the total of 3 bids. Signage and maps is a non-budgeted item compared to last year. This is the estimate of \$1921.23. Jeff asked Les Babb about this, and he said we can draw from Town Forest Stewardship Gifts account for those items. We could send a map and photos of signs with a thank you card to our recent donor. That includes 500 printed maps.

FAC Minutes - Oram referenced the considerable funds listed in item b of those previous minutes. We need to be careful of what comes through FAC to us that chips away at those funds. The FCC should be concerned with high impact items such as what is happening with our trees ie ash-bore (high impact). We need to set project priorities. We need to be fully aware of superfluous things coming through that erode at those funds. Jeff was never fully aware of all of the accounts the FCC was responsible for until he asked. That information needed to be pulled together by the town office. Oram asked for a printed copy of fully executed contract with forester and wants to make sure all FCC members have it.

Japanese Knotweed - Jeff had 2 discussions with a resource at NHDES and there are multiple grants available through the state, and we can apply for those. We would identify areas where knotweed is present and then herbicide would be applied at various precise life cycle stages. Jeff will get grant information from the state and present it at a future meeting.

Water quality initiatives - This is a large bucket of items including Oram's suggestions of the consortium meetings, what Sue talked about with micro plastics and PFAS testing. Oram said we have contracted with Green Mountain to add Trout Pond. We can possibly add other bodies of water at future dates. We can start a database with numbers for the bodies of water including historical information. Jeff will ask Green Mountain to export data into an excel spreadsheet with tabs by water body. We can keep that document updated. Jeff would like the FCC to have more information on the town website and this information could be part of that along with the trail map, photos, etc.

Packard - There was a presentation to us a couple of months ago for the purchase of that conservation land. One of the problems they are running into is that when you are a donor and you give them a check some people stipulate what it can / can not be used for. Unfortunately, we cannot expend our monies on this even though it is in Freedom. We certainly appreciate the fact that they are doing it, and we will support them however we can, but we are bound to the fact that we cannot expend monies that we have no control over.

USGS Soil testing - they took a soil sample looking for PFAS chemicals, and we received pretty good results. It was somewhere in the town forest. We would like to follow up with the contact at NHDES to find out where and see if there is a plan for additional testing. We will make sure FAC gets a copy.

Invoices/Contracts - We have one invoice from the town forester in the amount of \$725, but it has not gone to the FAC yet. Stacy just received it and provided it to the FCC. Motion by Alice to table until FAC reviews and approved. Second by Oram. Unanimous

Other - Oram said that on 10/18 this board voted on Paul Elie to join to FCC. Mr. Elie has not been contacted by the town as of yet.

Public comment - Michelle Keenan thanked for letting her sit in. She said she had a question about the types of things that we see on a regular basis. Assume ZBA has the final word? Yes. We make recommendations to the ZBA looking at it from a water quality, storm water, tree cutting stand point. Where is the water going, water infiltration, disturbance of slopes, tree cutting point system, etc. We write letters to applicant and ZBA. We recommend things like water bars, filtration trenches, etc. She had a question about education for people who live in those fragile areas. How would they find out about these things? When they go to make a modification to their property. It's in the zoning ordinance. To a slightly lesser extent we can have input with the NHDES. She is interested in improving what is seen on the town website.

Linda motioned to Adjourned at 9:10. Second by Alice.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Mailhot