

Town of Freedom
Conservation Commission
December 20, 2022
Draft Minutes

1. Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, Sue Hoople, Linda Mailhot, Alice Custard, R.A. Oram. Michele Keenan, member of public, is present.
2. Approval of 15 November 2022 FCC Meeting Minutes – Alice made a motion to approve, Linda seconded. APPROVED Paul Elie has been contacted by the Town regarding FCC membership.
3. Business properly presented to the commission
 1. ZBA Application : 449 Pequawket Trail – proposing to tear down a structure and move everything back. Square footage is decreasing. No tree cutting will be taking place. Drip line trenches are shown. Linda commented that this was a nice job. A letter stating no concerns will be sent to the ZBA,
 2. ZBA Application : West Bay Rd - .35 acres, currently undeveloped. This is a shorefront lot, and includes tree cutting. The structure is kept small, under 15%. There is a proposed perched beach, as well as retaining walls. Proposed landscaping is mentioned in the application. There is not currently a plan for maintaining the tree score. We fail to see the justification for the removal of all those trees, with remaining trees that give the score. Removal of the root system from all those trees will not be easily replaced. They are proposing removing 37 trees. There are no details about water bars, filtration trenches, etc. to be put in place before replanting, or what is the landscaping/replanting plan?
Perched beach needs to go through DES and the Conservation Commission. Details on the retaining walls and their construction are not provided. Details on paver walkway? Erosion control of walkway, to include what it is being constructed of, and water infiltration. Details of retaining walls are needed. Water is running straight down the slope and into the lake.
Grid 3A will meet the point score. Others do not meet the score as proposed.
4. Review and discussion of Dec. 7, 2022 FAC meeting minutes – Jeff attended the last meeting as representative of the FCC. Discussion ensued regarding the Verizon proposal for placing a tower in the Town Forest. Jeff will obtain a copy of the letter Verizon sent. This will be tabled until our next meeting.

Oram and Rob Cunio went to the town forest and measured the gate at Goe Hill. All of the fire apparatus will fit through the gate. The gate is not locked. It cannot be locked as it is currently set up. Do we own that gate? It is painted green, ours are painted yellow. If Madison installed it then gave it to us, is it in writing that we own it?

Is there actual water testing happening annually in Trout Pond?

5. FCC Budget Discussion – Jeff presented what was discussed at the last meeting to the Selectmen and it went well. The Selectmen requested that we compile all of the water quality data from Green Mountain. 2023 proposed forester budget was received, in the amount of \$6700. The FAC voted in the affirmative for the FCC to accept the forester budget. Forest maintenance fund was discussed at FAC, and included replacing the culvert that the beavers damaged (\$1500), and everything needs to be mowed and fertilized this year (\$2500), totaling \$4000. It was also recommended that the proposal for road repairs (\$35,000) – 2 additional quotes should be sought, as well as a definite scope of work.

Oram made a recommendation that documents received by the FCC from Barry Keith must have a letterhead or a signature block on it. It was unclear who prepared and submitted the proposed forester budget.

Warrant articles are required to use funds from the funds, as these are line item transfers and will not be raised from taxation.

Jeff made a motion to have a warrant article for a line item transfer of \$4000 from forest maintenance, which includes mowing, culvert replacement and general maintenance as recommended to us by the FAC. Alice seconded. APPROVED

A quote for road repairs was received from GW Brooks in the amount of \$35000. The FAC recommended using this number as a place holder. A scope of work needs to be created. Barry should be consulted for guidance on the scope of work. Before March, the FAC needs to bring Barry in to work on the work plan. Up to \$35000, not to exceed....line item transfer. Jeff made a motion to recommend a warrant article of up to \$35000 for the repair and reconstruction of formerly Jackman Ridge Road. Alice seconded. APPROVED

A forest activity schedule for 2023 is needed. Jeff will email the FAC to ask if we will be receiving a 2023 Forest Activity schedule or are we going to use what is in the contract in lieu of that?

A line item transfer for account 01-4900-870 – the forester. Barry feels that there are significant grant opportunities, but previous budgeting has not allowed him to do that work. Oram mentioned a grant that is available through Fish and Game.

Jeff made a motion to recommend a warrant article for line item transfer of \$6700 to account 01-4900-870 for forester. Alice seconded. APPROVED

6. FCC Project Updates

1. Town forest inspection report – was distributed to members in their packets

2. Water quality initiatives – Jeff is sending a request to Matt Howe at Green Mountain to get all of our historical water data in raw format. NH DES would like information from us on our water quality testing.

3. Anne Turner Packard Project- Lakes Region Conservation Trust – Jeff received communication that they had received a moose plate grant that completed their funding.

7. Approval of invoices and contracts – Green Mountain Conservation invoices for \$3150 and \$1500 for water quality testing. This is \$150 over what was budgeted. Alice made a motion to pay both invoices, Sue seconded. APPROVED

BH Keith invoice in the amount of \$725. Alice made a motion to pay this amount, Oram seconded. APPROVED

8. Other business to come before the commission - We received a letter from the Loon Lake Association regarding shifting the burden of future water testing to the town. Last year we had split the cost of it with them. We budgeted our normal amount that included the \$1500 for Loon Lake in this proposed budget. They have requested that we pay their portion as well, approximately \$1296. We can request approval for that amount, or revise the work schedule to reduce the cost to \$1500. Oram suggests getting a recommendation from water quality people about what the difference would be between weekly and monthly. Jeff has spoken to Jill about that, and she said there would not be a big impact. Keep the amount at \$1500 and modify the scope of work to meet that budgeted amount. The intent is to have one organization as coordinator for the elected officials. Oram mentioned RSA 36:A. Alice made a motion to carry forward the \$1500 and renegotiate with Green Mountain. Linda seconded. APPROVED

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment – Alice made a motion to adjourn at 9:11pm, Sue seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on November 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary