

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

Minutes

PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Janet Johnson. Present are: Janet Johnson, Ron Newbury, Sean Coriaty, Janet Meyers, Les Babb-Selectman's Representative, Jeff Nicoll-FCC Representative, Paul Olzerowicz-Planning Board Representative.

- Approve Minutes November 2, 2022 – Ron clarified about the boundaries –Ron has repainted the blazes 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. Janet M. made a motion to approve as amended, Janet J. seconded. APPROVED
- Review FCC November 15, 2022 Minutes – Janet J. asked about Oram's statement on Page 2 – regarding items that erode at the funds for the forest. Jeff N. gave an overview of his interpretation about those words. The Forest is supposed to be self sustaining. The maintenance of Jackman Ridge Road will be a large expense. Les recommends asking Barry to project the next 5 years of cuts. There is discussion about the change if use funds and the portion that comes back to the Conservation Commission. Can it be used for the Town Forest maintenance?
- Town Forest proposed Forester Budget- was distributed in the packets. Mr. Coriaty feels that the Keith invoices are very reasonable. Jeff attended the easement meeting with the State, and got recommendations for grants that might be available. Jeff recommended getting more than one quote for the repair work on Jackman Ridge Road, and Barry should be involved with the process. Have Barry write a scope of work, then review the bids. FAC and FCC to review after Barry's review. After all reviews, recommendations to be sent to the Selectmen for a final decision. Janet J. made a motion to approve the proposed Forester budget so it can be sent to FCC, Sean seconded. APPROVED
- Miscellaneous Correspondence/Invoices – BH Keith invoice in the amount of \$725– Les made a motion to approve and recommend to the FCC for approval. Ron seconded. APPROVED

- The easement monitoring report was received. Items listed: new trail map has been developed. Jackman Ridge Road erosion has not been repaired. Beaver pipe needs to be reassessed. Ron Newbury has been working on the Forest boundaries. Signs prohibiting ATV and motor bikes are being installed. Water testing of Trout Pond is done annually.
- Barry recommended getting a boundary map to keep track of the boundaries that Ron has done.
- Formal agreement with Scrub Oak Scramblers – we do not have one at this time. Their work on the forest is appreciated. They do not need to tell us anything if the work is on their trails, but if they are doing additional work they should contact us.
- There is a forest maintenance fund that might be used for the culvert. A request needs to be put in if that money is needed. Jeff will contact Dave George to inquire about costs. Everything needs to be mowed and fertilized this year. There was \$500 for mowing, and add an additional amount for the culvert purchase. Use the general number of \$2500 general and \$1500 culvert. The other warrant article for the road would be \$35000.

Janet J. made a motion to place the following on the warrant: \$35000 for Trout Pond Road repairs and another article for \$4000 for culverts and general maintenance.

A letter was received from Verizon asking if the town of Freedom would consider putting a cell tower on Mary's Mountain. In exchange, the town would receive \$1300 a month. This is in violation of the easement. Janet M. made a motion to decline the offer, Les seconded. APPROVED

- Public comment.
- Such business as properly presented

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, Janet J. seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary