

Freedom Conservation Commission  
Tuesday, 15 August, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Freedom Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by R.A Oram.

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call – Present are: R.A. Oram, Sue Hoople, Alice Custard, Michele Keenan, Paul Elie, Linda Mailhot. Jeff Nicoll is absent. A quorum is present.
- 2 Approval of July 18, 2023 FCC Meeting Minutes –Linda made a motion to approve, Paul seconded. APPROVED
- 3 Review of August 2, 2023 FAC Meeting Minutes – RSA 36:A specifies subcommittees. FAC is a subcommittee of the FCC. All committees review what their subcommittees are doing. The chair has brought this to attention. A motion to discuss at a later meeting was made by R.A. Oram, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Paul Elie requested a change of order in the agenda to move Item 10 up to before Item 4. Linda seconded. APPROVED

- 10 Applications - Blue Sky Towers, Shawtown Rd – a cell tower to be installed on private property. Burt Family are prior owners. They approached the Board before, looking to put an easement on part of this property. They opted out of doing that, and sold the property to the current owner. There is a vernal pool on the property. No streams, no body of water on the site.

Best Management Practices are recommended for this project.

Paul Elie is concerned about vibration and how it will affect wildlife.

Alice asked about the roads to be installed.

Balloon test to be done this weekend.

Public safety is a concern, with lack of cell service.

Lawrence Claveau – West Danforth Rd – here regarding the cell tower. Does not have cell service on that road. Concerned about the plot that they want to put it on is 100'x100'. Is knowledgeable about RF. It is suggested that it have 500 meters by 500 meters. It needs to sit on a much larger piece of land, fenced in. Security is a concern. RF is nothing to fool with.

Alice – Signage regarding the safety is recommended.

- 4 Town Forest Road Repair Scope of work review (FAC recommends) – Ask for clarification about a cost estimate for the FCC. Does the capacity of the culverts meet rainfall increases we are seeing. Culverts to be sized for a 50 year storm.  
A motion to approve the general scope of work to be adapted into a bid specification that will support the purchasing policy procedure for the town of Freedom was made by Linda, seconded by Paul. APPROVED
- 5 Trout Pond water testing coordination/confirmation – on hold. Road is not passable.
- 6 NHDES Notice of Alleged Violation 39 Dennis Dr, Map20, Lot2 – refer to Zoning Officer. Michele made a motion to send a note to the Zoning Officer about this, our concern is for water safety. Septic system and moorings are also of concern. Alice seconded.  
APPROVED
- 7 Permit by Notification, Watson Hill Rd - FEMA, NH Wetlands Bureau – we are past the date window to vote on this. Consensus that this was a well-prepared packet.
- 8 Tree farm discussion – Oram’s concern at the last meeting was regarding cost, and what do we get for it? We have a full time forester, so this seems like having two sets of eyes looking at the same thing. Are there grant opportunities? What is it we are paying for? We are following a stewardship plan. The State inspects every year. Check with Barry - If we are not a member of American Tree Farm System, will it impact grant opportunities? Is the cost \$300 per year, or every 6 years? What is Barry’s reason for recommending this?  
The postcard came from a NH organization.  
A motion to forward the questions to Barry was made by Oram, seconded by Michelle.  
APPROVED
- 9 Timber Management Agreement (FAC recommends) – Email indicating that legal review is not needed is included in the packet. Owner is the Town of Freedom, Selectboard should be signing. Document needs to include “All monies will be forwarded to the Town and forester commission and fees will be deducted from the monies sent to the Town.” Linda made a motion to amend the timber management agreement in two ways: 1. Final sentence of the existing agreement should be amended to say “All monies generated by the cut will be forwarded to the Town of Freedom. The commission and fees will be remitted to BHK on a weekly basis by the Town of Freedom based on the sales revenues received.” 2. The timber management agreement currently has the FAC Chair signature as the owner. We suggest that the owner signature should be a representative of the Board of Selectmen. Oram seconded. APPROVED

11 Approval of invoices, Invoice 01-3917 BHKeith (FAC recommends) – forest moth die off – is there a report? Sue made a motion to pay the invoice (\$1425), Alice seconded.  
APPROVED

12 Other business to come before the commission

13 Public Comment

14 Adjourn – Sue made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 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 August 8, 2023

