

Freedom Conservation Commission

Tuesday, 19 September, 2023

7:00 pm

Freedom Town Hall

Minutes

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are: Jeff Nicoll, Alice Custard, Linda Mailhot, Michele Keenan, Sue Hoople, R.A. Oram. Paul Elie is absent.
- 2 Approval of August 15, 2023 FCC Meeting Minutes – Linda made a motion to accept, Sue seconded. Add - Mr. Claveau was here to discuss the cell tower. APPROVED as amended. Jeff abstained
- 3 Town Forest Road Repair Scope of work bid specification – New information was received from Barry Keith. Item 4 – Trout Pond Road repairs. Paul contacted Jeff with a concern about culvert sizing. This was also a concern that was voiced at the last FCC meeting. See if the Town has specs from FEMA that can be used, without having to pay for full engineering for the Trout Pond Road repairs. Fish passages are a concern, concrete fixtures are being used as opposed to culverts. DES may have information available about sizing, etc.
Beaver Pond - Check with Scott Brooks first, ask about precast options. Ask DES for aquatic wildlife crossings information. Grants available? Oram will reach out to Fish and Game.
Two separate items – Beaver Pond and Trout Pond Road.
Trout Pond Road – ask Scott for his opinion on culverts.
Check on details of encumbering.
- 4 Trout Pond water testing coordination/confirmation – Bruce Howlett asked if the testing will be done this year. Access is not suitable to get a boat up there. Pick up the testing next year. Jeff will contact Jill to let her know.
- 5 Timber Management Agreement Approval – An updated agreement was distributed for review. Michele made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED Jeff will forward to the Board of Selectmen.
- 6 FCC / Town Forest Preliminary Budget discussion – A spreadsheet of the past few years was distributed. Ask why land use tax has been the same

for the past three years. Land Use Tax money can be dispersed by a majority of commission members. Info is needed as to what the Wildlife Habitat fund can be used for.

Look at other initiatives throughout the Town.

7 NRI discussion – Draft introduction was discussed. The Board supports the introduction as presented.

8 FCC website discussion – a list of ideas was presented.
Link to GMCG – Michele will take care of this
Oram prefers to have FCC info posted first, then add the GMCG info.
Do an introduction first. Add mission statement. Description of purpose. Use the logo.
Donate button? Conservation Easement.
Link to FAC/FAISC
Wait on 5,6,7
Town Forest shirt sales?
Goal for next month – mission statement draft.

9 Other business to come before the commission- based on tree die off report from Barry, that is about 11% of the Town Forest. Request more information/recommendation about what to do. Impacts on health of forest, revenues, wood and water quality. Is there a way to document problems like this before it reaches levels of so many acres?

From Paul – spoke with NH Municipal Association about the Intent To Cut procedure. There is not much that the FCC can do.

10 Public Comment

11 Adjourn – Michele made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm, Alice seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary