

# **Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, 21 November, 2023**

7:00 pm

Minutes

Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Jeff Nicoll.

Present are:

FCC – Jeff Nicoll, Linda Mailhot, R.A. Oram, Michele Keenan, Paul Elie, Sue Hoople, Alice Custard

FAC – Yvonne Hoyt, Ron Newbury, Sean Coriaty, Les Babb

Dave George, Ernie Day, Barry Keith, Janet Johnson and Don Johnson are also present.

Approval of October 17, 2023 FCC Meeting Minutes – Linda made a motion to approve, Alice seconded. APPROVED

Approval of FAC Meeting Minutes October 4, 2023 – Ron made a motion to approve, Sean seconded. APPROVED

FAC/ FCC collaboration discussion and strategy – a discussion was opened regarding working together. A document regarding the framework/roles was distributed. Yvonne spoke about the decisions that the FAC has made have been revisited (redundancy). Ron feels there may be advantages to meeting jointly. Michele agrees with Ron. Alice also agrees. Jeff feels this could offer some efficiencies.

A history of how the FAC came into being was given.

Dave George – let the FAC operate as it has, and when decisions need to be made by the FCC, have a liaison from the FAC present. Jeff clarified that this is written into the by-laws. Les reviewed the process by which the stewardship plan was written. Barry spoke about how things had worked in the past, where the day-to-day issues were taken to the FAC. Les supports joint meetings. Jeff mentioned that a revision to the FCC bylaws would allow for joint meetings.

Sean spoke about efficient use of human resources, and what is preventing us from eliminating the FAC and just having the FCC? The FAC doesn't feel like they have a guidance role.

Oram asked Les what his thoughts are. Les supports joint meetings. Oram suggests that every meeting is combined, the first half is FAC, FCC could be part of the discussion. Linda suggests that to keep the meetings from getting too long in length, begin meeting at 6:30 pm. Les suggests that the next time FAC meets, Les will lead the meeting and they will elect a Chair.

The FAC is agreeable to meeting with the FCC. A Chair will be elected.

Everyone feels comfortable with the combining of meetings.

Joint meeting between the FAC and FCC monthly with FAC activities first, then FCC business.

FAC and FCC chairs will call meetings to order. FAC will adjourn when done, FCC will continue from there.

Les made a motion that all future FAC and FCC meetings be held jointly on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Yvonne seconded. APPROVED 3-0-0  
Jeff made a motion that we hold joint FAC/FCC meetings on the third Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 pm. FAC business will take place first, FCC will follow when the FAC adjourns. This will start with the December meeting, 12/19/23. Alice seconded. APPROVED 7-0-0

Barry likes the proposed idea. He would like to be invited to attend meetings that have large items for the Town Forest. Easement monitoring is coming on December 5. Barry asked if the big dumping episode has been cleaned up. It has been done.

FAC/FCC budget estimate for 2024 – water quality, forest maintenance. Lesser items are recording secretary, operating supplies, etc.

Recording secretary – increase to \$1000

Operating supplies – reduce to \$200

Dues - \$250 – leave as is

Meetings - \$200 – leave as is

Training - \$450 – increase to \$600

Total \$2250

Water quality testing – spreadsheet was distributed

Test program – \$3307.50 (last year plus 5%)

Round Pond \$1404

Loon Lake \$1896

Trout Pond \$188 (we supply boat)

Total \$6795.50

Loon Lake Association gifted \$400

\$6395.50 is the remaining total

Request \$6500

Forest Maintenance Account – last year included culvert cost. That may be grant funded.

Put in \$250 for painting. Mowing needs to be considered. Ron will get a quote. Les mentioned a bridge that needs repair, Scrub Oaks-grant money? Melissa Siemens assisted with grant writing in the past.

Leave at \$4000, same as last year. Budget \$400 for Ron's expenses. Les made a motion to authorize FAC discretionary fund for maintenance of the forest, receipts to be submitted. Seconded by Ron. APPROVED

Forester – Jeff will ask Barry for that information.

\$35,000 carry forward for road repairs.(line item transfer)

Land Use application -Town Forest – from Scrub Oak Scramblers – to provide public access on the property. (municipal trail and roads)

November 17 – request for Scrub Oak Scramblers – 2/17/24 – snow date 2/24/24. Ron made a motion that FAC approve the application for the annual carnival, Sean seconded.

3-0-0

Jeff made a motion that we approve the land use proposal from Scrub Oak Scramblers for 2/17/24. Linda seconded. APPROVED

#### Approval of Invoices

BH Keith – 9/27-11/13 – total \$525. FAC - Ron made a motion to approve Barry's invoice, Yvonne seconded. 3-0-0

FCC - Sue made a motion to approve as presented, Alice seconded. 7-0-0

Green Mountain Conservation Group –Danforth, Cold Brook, etc - Invoice amt \$3150.

Green Mountain – Loon Lake and Round Pond – Invoice amt. \$3096.

Alice made a motion to pay the invoices, Oram seconded. APPROVED

Other business to come before the commission – Request from Green Mountain to send letter of support to modernize culverts in need in the Saco watershed. Michele made a motion to endorse. Paul seconded. APPROVED

Alice is not renewing her term on the FCC.

Linda submitted a sample mission statement for the website, to be reviewed in December.

#### Public Comment

Adjourn – Alice made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 pm, Oram seconded. APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Donaldson  
Recording Secretary