

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, 20 February 2024
6:30 Freedom Town Hall
Minutes

1 Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:

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

FAC – Yvonne Hoyt, Ron Newbury, Sean Coriaty

Dave George, Tava Nicoll and Barry Keith are also present.

Jeff made a motion that the agenda be adjusted to insert Tava Nicoll’s presentation, Michele seconded. APPROVED

A packet of proposed signs was distributed. Home Depot has donated all of the posts that are needed. She is requesting permission to install a bench at Trout Pond. It will be made of a composite material and will likely be sunk into the ground. It is suggested that it be chained to a tree and that it be located out of the way of boaters. Tava will draft a location for the bench and bring it back to the Boards. Ron made a motion to OK the plan as presented including the bench pending a decision on the location of the bench, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

Michele made a motion to accept the proposal as is with the contingency of the placement of the bench, Linda seconded. APPROVED

2 Approval of December 19, 2023 FCC/FAC Meeting Minutes – FCC - Michele made a motion to approve, Linda seconded. APPROVED

FAC – Yvonne made a motion to accept, Ron seconded. APPROVED

3 FAC officer positions – there are no FAC members in officer positions at this time. Sean verbally offered his resignation. Ron volunteered to oversee a workday in the spring. This item is table to the next meeting.

4 Town Forest CLSP Annual Inspection Report Review – Barry reports that he feels the inspection went well. There will be a change of guard with Steve Walker retiring. Oram asks why we went from excellent to good. The condition of the boundaries is noted as good. Oram requested an overall view of the report.

5 Town Forest Projects Discussion- 1st priority is repair of the access road to Trout Pond. Barry did an assessment last year. This needs to go out to bid now. Other items include timber harvest and salvage operation. Trail signage and boundary marking are also on the list. Brush hogging and wildlife openings are items that Dave George addressed. (Items 11 and 7). There needs to be coordinated with Barry. Barry recommends doing mowing bi-annually in the end of summer/early fall. There is a grant from NH F&G that Barry applied for. The grant includes brush hogging and mowing, as well as burn practices. The work gets preapproved, and once the work is done, the club gets paid by us, and Fish and Game will reimburse on a percentage of the project. A turtle biologist will be visiting in the spring. They are waiting for more specifics regarding the burn. The grant is for a year, and can be extended up to two years. Barry has been working with Michael Crawford on the burn plan. It has been prepared in draft form, and Barry has reviewed that. Once it is finalized, he will come back down and do a presentation of the burn plan. Boundary marking and signage – ongoing project
Resources – boundary marking supplies need to be budgeted for.
Timber harvest and salvage operation – Barry needs to do some layout before the leaves come out too much. For the salvage, he needs to be able to see what the crown cover is. Next step is an assessment as we are leafing out.
Scott Brooks will do an evaluation of Barry's roadwork proposal. This will take place at the end of mud season.
Scrub Oak Scramblers are looking at repairing two bridges this spring. Barry has a contact with the Trails organization. Barry and Dave will coordinate.

The gate on Goe Hill is too narrow. There is a bridge at Hurd Road that is no good at this point.

6 TNC pine barren burn discussion – burn plan will be finalized and Michael Crawford will come do a presentation. (possibly April). The burn will likely be in September.

Barry pointed out a gate that is not on the map. There is also a private property boundary that was overlooked.

7 Approval of Invoices

BH Keith – 1/11/24 - \$300.00 – budget – need an updated account balance.

Contingent approval? Land use tax fund?

FAC – Ron made a motion to approve the BH Keith invoice. Sean seconded.

APPROVED

FCC – Linda made a motion to approve the invoice, Oram seconded.

APPROVED

Sean has a concern about the pieces of snowmobile track on the airstrip.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the FAC meeting at 8:02 pm, Yvonne seconded.

APPROVED

8 FCC Rules of Procedure Revision – to put joint meeting into rules, and the change of the time. Paul spoke about 7 members and the DNCR having a new name. These items were reviewed and found to be acceptable. Oram mentions adding a vacant line for signatures. It is acceptable as is, and was signed by the members of the commission.

Jeff made a motion to approve the updated Conservation Commission Rules of Procedure, Linda seconded. APPROVED

9 Application Review -Cahill Shoreland App, Nylander Permit by Notification

Cahill – This will come back to the FCC after it has been returned from Concord. Oram made a motion to move this forward under the guise that we will be seeing it again. Michele seconded. APPROVED

Nylander – permit by notification. Runoff from roof, filtration trench installation are concerns.

Filtration trenches

Drip edge from roof to prevent runoff to the lake

Proximity of structure to shore

Water bars for redirection

Vegetation to absorb runoff

Best management practices to bring up to date with environmental impacts

Infiltration at retaining wall

Call attention to shoreland protection guidelines

Jeff made a motion to write a response to the Nylander application to NH DES, Oram seconded. APPROVED

10 FCC/FAC website content – next meeting

11 Other business to come before the commission – at Town meeting there will be discussion about refurbishing the Town Office or building a new office building. Proposal for the new building contains vinyl siding, windows, etc. The lot is mostly wetlands, there will be a paved parking lot that will cause more runoff into the Ossipee River.

Suggestion - Building materials for whichever sight, to be sensitive and conscious of the latest Green Building materials.

There is concern about the Conservation Commission issuing a statement.

Sue made a motion that the FCC make a statement that whichever building option is approved by the Town, materials follow the standards of NH Green Building materials. Oram seconded. 3-3 Elie, Hoople, Oram in favor. Mailhot, Nicoll and Keenan against.

12 Public Comment – Paul mentioned gas tanks at the spot, and docks at Loon Island.

13 Adjourn – Linda made a motion to adjourn at 9:01 pm, Sue seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on February 13, 2024.