

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

6:30 pm at the Freedom Town Hall

Quorum Check, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:

FCC – Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Paul Elie, Sue Hoople (alternate)

FAC – Ron Newbury (alternate), Yvonne Hoyt, Paul Elie as FCC representative to FAC

Bruce Howlett, Megan and Greg Broderick, and Dave George-Scrub Oak Scramblers, advisor to the FAC – are also present.

Michele Keenan and Linda Mailhot are absent.

Approval of February 20, 2024 FCC/FAC Meeting minutes

Yvonne made a motion to approve the FAC minutes, Ron seconded.

APPROVED

Oram made a motion to approve the FCC minutes, Sue seconded.

APPROVED

Forest Inspection Inquiry Follow up – Barry Keith to FAC and FCC – response about overall rating.

We should review Barry's work plan and include in the contract renewal for next month.

Approval of Invoices – BH Keith - \$375.00 – Ron made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

Oram made a motion to approve, Sue seconded. APPROVED

Cleanup sessions were discussed. Signs are a priority. Posts are needed.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the FAC session at 6:55 pm. Yvonne seconded.

The FAC session was adjourned.

Town Water Quality Presentation – GMCG – Jill, Grace and Haley are here to present the Annual Report.

The RIVERS Program – collaboration with Saco River Corridor Commission.

The report was reviewed. Danforth Brook – holding stable. Dissolved oxygen

and conductivity – as the water heats up it holds less oxygen. Last year the

relationship was weaker. External factors may be affecting this. Lower

amounts of conductivity are seen throughout the sites, and may have been

affected by the amount of rainfall. All measurements for 2023 were above

75% saturation. Danforth Brook is looking good.

Cold Brook (in town) – holding stable. Dissolved oxygen is strong.

Conductivity is well below 100 and lower than past 5 years. Saturation is improved over last five years.

Chloride, nitrate and orthophosphate are high.

Shawtown Brook - nice and stable. Limited data on trends as this was the first year of sampling. Dissolved oxygen and conductivity are below the limits. Saturation is above 75%.

Square Brook – turbidity, phosphorous and ph – holding stable. Chronically high conductivity. Normal for that site. Recommend reducing road salt in the area. Normal saturation. Nutrients – a little high due to runoff.

West Branch River – turbidity and phosphorous holding stable. Ph is something to look at. Ph can be influenced by rain. Dissolved oxygen was stronger in 2023 compared to past 5 years. Conductivity well below 100. Saturation – most points are above 75%.

Huckins Pond Outflow – stable. Dissolved oxygen stronger in 2023 than in past years. A few points are approaching the 6 mg/l minimum. Conductivity lower than past years. Saturation was above 75%.

Cold Brook – holding stable. Conductivity was lower in the past year. Saturation above 75%.

Lakes – The UNH program, 3 lakes in Freedom are monitored. Across the board, this was the wettest summer NH has ever seen. Loon Lake had higher phosphorous, transparency and dissolved oxygen decreases. Round Pond is similar. Middle Danforth had dissolved oxygen issues.

Last year there were (5-6) 2-3 inch rain events.

PFAS were discussed. Salt and brining were also discussed.

Friends of Danforth gave a presentation about runoff and septics. Suggest adding the water bodies to the septic list. Show if it is protected or non-protected. The Friends are willing to assist with doing the research. They are working on brochures.

Oram spoke about House Bill 1140.

Freedom Village Store with GMCG – Earth Day talk on water quality April 26.

Applications for Review

Nylander Revocable Trust – we sent a letter last month. The State approved the plan.

Camp Wabanaki– installing two septic systems. Erosion control if there is an overflow, where does it go? Concerned about proximity to the lake. The tanks

are closer to the water – between 75 and 100 feet.

Mahoney Trust – Huckins Road. Same footprint, pulling back from shorefront. Need larger copies of the maps. Tree cutting to occur. Infiltration around house and retaining wall are shown.

Other business to come before the commission

Public Comment

Adjournment – Oram made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 pm, Sue seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary