

**Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, 17, September 2024**

**6:30 pm**

**At the Freedom Town Hall**

Minutes

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:  
FCC – Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Linda Mailhot (alt), Megan Broderick, Michele Keenan, Susan Marks, Sue Hoople (alt)  
FAC – Paul Elie, Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt, Jim Guido-Planning Board Rep., Gary Williams-Selectboard Rep, R.A. Oram-FCC Rep  
Dave George is also present.
- 2 Approval of August 2024 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – Linda made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

**FAC - Paul Elie, Chair**

- 3 Yvonne made a motion to accept the minutes, Ron seconded. APPROVED
- 4 Town Forest Signage Update – signs were displayed for the members to review. A couple of new signs have been ordered. Oram made a motion to remove the old hand cut signs and put up the new metal ones. Linda seconded. APPROVED  
Trees that were down on the Danforth end of the mountain trail have been cleaned up.  
Paul made a motion that all members of the FAC have keys to the forest. Yvonne seconded. APPROVED Dave suggests setting up a lock box with a combination. If Madison doesn't have a key, they should have one. Oram

has a concern that if the key fits other locks in town, he does not support each member having one.

## 5 Approval of FAC Invoices -

Burn Plan Contract Review – the burn contract draft was distributed in the packet. We need to make a recommendation to the Selectboard as to sign or not sign. Dave is concerned about wooden sign posts that may or may not be in the burn area. Paul made a motion to approve, pending Barry's input. Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

Trout Pond RFP – coordinated with Barry for dates that he is available for pre-bid, September 24 at 10 am.

Planning Board – changes coming up – if so, please notify FCC/FAC in advance.

Megan asked about posting information in the forest about hunting season and wearing orange. It is posted at the kiosks.

Paul made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm, Ron seconded. ADJOURNED

Dave George – Scrub Oaks Scramblers will be working on two bridges soon.

Burn area, logging area, and wildlife habitat areas could be added to the trail map, for an internal version.

## **FCC**

- 6 Aquatics Status Update – Lake Host Program is complete. \$1700 was sent in to the program, an additional \$800 from the gift account needs to be sent. Application for 2025 grant has been submitted. Milfoil removal – diving in Danforth was done before the last meeting. There is a spot on the Ossipee

River – DES gave approval to move forward with that removal. It is being done this Friday.

Suggestion - Provide info on FCC website about the surveys that the Lake Hosts did. Megan will work on this. d

Megan and Susan have been in touch regarding numbers for the spreadsheet that the Ossipee Lake Alliance maintains. Ossipee is doing some milfoil work as well.

7 Applications for Review - no ZBA applications to review

7a Wabanaki – the owner has requested that if applications are being discussed, that he have an opportunity to be present. Jeff reached out to him with the scope of concerns that were discussed last month. Jeff proposes that since the planning board has requested a third party review, that we refrain from discussing further until we can review that third party review. Oram spoke about the letter that was sent from DES to Mr. McConkey. The Town did not receive a copy of that letter. Jeff has contacted DES regarding this but has not received a response. Oram requests that Mr. McConkey's response be included in our files. Jeff wrote a letter to Gary on April 19 regarding concerns about proposed development at Wabanaki. He did not receive an official response on this letter.

Jeff made a motion to request the results of the third party review from the planning board when they are available, Michele seconded. APPROVED

8 Approval of FCC Invoices – Aquatics invoice for \$800 to NH Lakes. Oram made a motion to approve, Michele seconded. APPROVED

9 FCC website development – Michele has offered to take point on this. A list was distributed for review. Natural Resource Inventory, Aquatics update to be included on the site. Mission statement – Linda created a draft. Town Forest logo to pop up. Oram suggests adding water ripples and a loon to the logo to include the FAISC. Jeff suggests creating an FCC logo. Nancy has volunteered to help Michele with the website. Jeff will assist with graphics.

Bring ideas/priorities to the next meeting.

10 Conservation meeting coordination with GMCG – tentative November 15. Inviting conservation commissions from surrounding towns. If space allows, other committees from the towns may be invited. Andrea @ NH Lakes may attend the gathering of the Conservation Commissions at the GMCG facility.

11 Other business to come before the commission – FCC to vote on proposed contract that FAC voted on earlier – Oram made a motion to approve the fire plan, based on the recommendations of the chairperson of the FAC, conditional on Barry's input. Linda seconded. APPROVED

Email from Roberta McCarthy – inviting us to Berry Bay event October 5 at the Town Hall with bi-partisan event of candidates regarding water topics.

Legislative bulletin topics – cyanobacteria control included in NH Clean Lakes Program. PFAS – omni-bill restricting PFAS. Conservation commissions can be elected.

Sue suggested that Jeff be appointed as FCC member to the Planning Board. Jeff agreed to go to targeted meetings that have topics that concern the FCC. Sue made a motion that a member from the FCC attend meetings when the Conservation Commission deems that a rep from the FCC should be attending. Oram seconded. Linda has concerns that this item not have the appearance of targeting one particular party. Linda also stated that there is already a method of communication in place for the FCC to give input on planning board applications, and as a result she feels this motion is unnecessary. Motion was APPROVED, Linda Mailhot against.

12 Public Comment

13 Adjourn – Linda made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm, Oram seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Donaldson  
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on  
9/10/24