

Public Meeting
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
6:30 pm at the Freedom Town Hall

Minutes

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:
FAC – Paul Elie, Bob Rafferty, Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt, Gary Williams – Selectmen’s Representative, Michele Keenan (FCC rep)
FCC – Linda Mailhot, Michele Keenan, Nancy Cristoferi, R.A. Oram, Sue Hoople, Megan Broderick, Susan Marks
Dave George and Barry Keith are also present as advisors.

- 2 Approval of September 2024 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes - 67&68 – Nov. 15 Andrea @ NH Lakes may attend the gathering of the Conservation Committees at the GMCG facility. Move this to line 100. 70 s/b Ossipee Lake Alliance, Line 112 – remove g on bulleting. (Linda’s Edit pg 4 line 120 change to: 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.

FAC – Ron made a motion to approve, Paul seconded. APPROVED
FCC – Oram made a motion to approve, Michele seconded. APPROVED

- FAC**
- 3 Access road to Trout Pond – RFP /Bid Opening and Review. (FAC/FCC Joint)
1 bid from RWN Property Services Inc.
1 bid from GW Brooks and Sons

Barry will review the bids, and will follow up with FAC. He recommends having a joint special meeting after that. Oram will be the rep from the FCC, Gary Williams will attend also.
Jeff will make 3 paper copies of the bids for Oram, Paul and Ron.
Paul made a motion to have a meeting with the Town Forester to review both bids, then to meet with the FAC to determine a plan going forward. Ron seconded. APPROVED
A motion that the FCC will wait for input and timeline from FAC and Forester and will have a joint meeting to discuss was made by Linda, seconded by Nancy. APPROVED

- 4 FAC Applications for Review – Scrub Oak Scramblers for Annual Winter Carnival. Paul made a motion to approve, Ron seconded. APPROVED

- 5 The Nature Conservancy Burn Plan Update – Paul discussed this with Barry. The Nature Conservancy feels that it will not happen this year. The funding (\$5000) will need to be encumbered.
- 6 Town Forest Map Discussion – suggestion of overlay maps such as winter habitats, culverts, things of that nature. Staging areas, gravel pits, cellar holes, truck roads, sign locations, water bars, kickouts and wood duck boxes are other items to consider. Signs should be mapped, and areas that should be watched during high rain events, etc. that could potentially damage the road.
Scrub Oak Scramblers have begun GPSing the locations of all the culverts. Suggestion to put an orange hat or a vest at the kiosk as a prompt for people to remember that it is hunting season.
- 7 Town Forest Signage Update – The final signs were delivered today. Phase 1 is to place the larger signs. Phase 2 is for the smaller signs. Paul has the signs, Oram has the hardware.
- 8 FAC Invoices for Review - BH Keith, \$600. Paul made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

Recruitment – there are two candidates hanging in the wind that Paul is working on. Budget numbers – worksheets will be coming soon. Two extra keys were made for the gates.
DNCR – Alexa wants to visit the forest soon.

Ron asked about mowing. Jeff will check the purchasing policy.

Dave asked for the overlay map to show the wildlife areas that should and shouldn't be mowed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron at 7:40. Yvonne seconded. FAC was adjourned.

FCC

- 9 Aquatics Status Update – diving in the Ossipee River has been done. They pulled 200 gallons of milfoil and ran out of room on their boat. They will be coming back for another day. Oram asked to have photos taken, to be used for Town Meeting if needed, and to use on the website.
NH Lakes – we are ready to submit our \$300 contribution. The form will be provided to Stacy to submit with the check. Megan made a motion to renew the membership with NH Lakes for \$300. Oram seconded. APPROVED
- 10 Applications for Review
 - 10a Camp Cody Wetlands Permit – plans were reviewed. Use BMPs for the staircase.
- 11 Water Quality Testing Proposal for 2025 – Round Pond and Loon Lake proposal was received. 10% increase is mentioned. Jeff will talk to Jill about whether two years of

testing is a sufficient baseline for Loon Lake and Round Pond, to consider monthly testing rather than bi-weekly. Jeff will create a spreadsheet for the next meeting.

- 12 Preliminary Budget Review – Jeff will have a spreadsheet of all the accounts next month. Megan will assist with the FAC numbers.
- 13 Approval of FCC Invoices – BH Keith, \$600 – recommended by the FAC. Linda made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED
NH Assn of Conservation Commissions - \$250 – Annual meeting is being held November 2, 2024. Hold this invoice for member review of the website.
GMCG for water quality monitoring- \$3150. Megan made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED
GMCG - \$3264 for Loon Lake and Round Pond 2024– Linda made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED
New England Milfoil - \$1660 – Megan made a motion to approve, Linda seconded. APPROVED

FAC Land use – Scrub Oak Scramblers Winter Carnival – recommended by the FAC. Nancy made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED
- 14 FCC website development – Nancy is assisting Michele. They are going to start with the mission statement. Prioritize the list Michele distributed at the last meeting. Jeff will resend this document. Jeff will also work on updating the logo.
- 15 Conservation meeting coordination with GMCG - limited space available. RSVP by November 1, maximum of 3 people. Oram updated that through discussion with Matt there is no maximum number of attendees per town.
- 16 Other business to come before the commission
- 17 Public Comment
- 18 Adjourn – Linda made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm, Nancy seconded. The meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on 10/8//24