

**Public Meeting of the  
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, November 19, 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, Susan Marks, Nancy Cristoferi, Michele Keenan, Megan Broderick, Sue Hoople, R.A. Oram

FAC – Jim Guido, Paul Elie, Gary Williams – Select Board Rep., Ron Newbury. Yvonne Hoyt

Linda Mailhot and Michel Cloutier are absent.

Dave George, Bill Elliot, and Bruce Howlett are also present.

Nancy is the FCC rep to the FAC

2 Approval of October 2024 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes

October 15<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting – Jeff made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

FAC Special Meeting – October 22 – typo on Barry Keith – change work “are” to “area” – Paul made a motion to approve as amended, Jim seconded. APPROVED

FCC October 29 Special Meeting – Paul made a motion to approve, Megan seconded. APPROVED

**FAC**

3 Access road to Trout Pond Update – Paul – contract was approved by Select Board. Funding housekeeping needs to be done, and a contingency clause in there. The monies are in the account. Jeff and Select Board will fine tune the funding.

4 The Nature Conservancy Burn Plan Update – not happening this year. There is \$5000 to be encumbered.

5 Town Forest Annual DNCR Site Visit – Alexa will be here on December 3 at 9 am for a briefing and a tour of the forest.

Upcoming harvest will take place west of the air strip. After the Trout Pond repairs are done, another harvest will be looked at in the Hurd area.

6 Town Forest Signage Update – 4 wooden signs were removed. Three tree farm signs were removed. Duplicate postings at the kiosks were removed. They started with placing the large signs. 7 have been installed, 4 more ready to go.

Question re: GPS coordinates. An overlay map can be done. Trails Bureau placed 911 GPS signs in some places in the Forest.

Future projects – overlay maps, trail maintenance schedule, boundary markings, Old Home Week – used to have buggy rides. The Old Home Week Committee will consider if they would be interested in having the rides this year.

Discussion with FAC – re: personnel. Yvonne is willing to be Vice Chair. Paul made a motion to promote Yvonne to Vice Chair of FAC, Gary seconded. APPROVED Ron is a full time member now. Gary and Jim are also full members. Paul made a motion to change Ron from Alternate to full member, Jim seconded. APPROVED

Thoughts re: disposition of the wooden signs removed from the Forest. Suggested selling them at the Village Store, historical society. If they are being given away, Scrub Oak Scramblers will take one. It is decided to give one to the Historical Society, one to Scrub Oak.

Gate 3 was installed by Scrub Oak Scramblers, belongs to the Forest by default. The gate is orange, the one near the Bluffs is green. Both will be painted yellow.

Current stewardship plan is posted on the website.

Scrub Oak keeps track of volunteer hours for grant opportunities.

Barry/Maps – forest is divided into two portions, three compartments and 25 stands. Paul is working on a map with him.

All trails in the Forest have been brush hogged.

Re: DNCR (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) site visit. Scrub Oak will try to have a representative present.

7 FAC Invoices for Review – BH Keith - \$1087.50, Paul made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

8 FAC Budget – Barry’s budget – was \$6700 last year. Barry would like it increased to \$10,000. Paul has requested information on that. The forester line is a warrant article, so does not need to be finalized until January.

Forest maintenance – talk of contingency for road repair, +/- \$6000. FCC awarded just the amount of the contract. If a contingency is desirable, put it in the Forest Maintenance article. A motion to put the maintenance account warrant at \$7500 was made by Gary, seconded by Jim. APPROVED

A motion to put in \$5000 for the burn was made by Paul, seconded by Nancy seconded. APPROVED

Jim made a motion to raise the forester amount to \$8000, seconded by Paul. APPROVED

Add \$500 to operating to cover printing of maps. Change operating to \$700 – motion made by Nancy, seconded by Yvonne. APPROVED

Dave spoke of Calumet and Lead Mine Road gates that Barry had mentioned.

Jim made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm, Ron seconded. ADJOURNED

## **FCC**

9 Aquatics Status Update and budget Inputs – milfoil removal at Ossipee River has been completed. DES started the process for next year, sent out info to request bids to be sent to them. Two requests for herbicides and two requests for DASH divers were sent out. All invoices have been submitted, for reimbursement from the State.

Budget – big expenditures are in warrant articles. Total expended expense was \$44,300. Half of that came from the State. Town money of \$5840 was spent according to the expense sheet. This year is suggested to be \$42,000 for the warrant article for milfoil. Lake Host Program – request \$3500. Will ask Ossipee for \$3500 as well. Oram suggests not making the Aquatic Invasive Species account dormant. The committee agrees to keep that at \$750 with a repurpose for education outreach on zebra mussels and other things.

## **10 Applications for Review**

10a Stefanski Family Rev Trust – at ZBA tonight. A motion to table was made by Oram, seconded by Nancy. APPROVED

10b Pine Point Freedom – working with DES on Dredge and Fill. A motion to table was made by Nancy, seconded by Oram. APPROVED Concern about high water mark.

10c Fredericks – at ZBA tonight - A motion to table was made by Michele, seconded by Susan. APPROVED

10d Tinguely – at ZBA tonight - consider impervious area. A motion to table was made by Michele, seconded by Nancy. APPROVED

10e Wabanaki (Planning Board Submission Review only) – impervious surface calculations were done, at 7.18%. Infiltration trenches are shown on the plan. A 100-year hydrology analysis was done also. No comment to forward to the Planning Board.

The newest plans are more complete than older versions. There is a list of items/concerns that this Board compiled earlier this year. Come back with a list of our concerns. Ask zoning officer about tree cutting.

12 FCC Budget Review and preparation for BOS - Leave part time line at \$1000 – a motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Oram. APPROVED Communicate to Selectmen value that Melissa brings.

Operating – \$700 – motion made by Nancy, seconded by Oram. APPROVED

Dues - \$250. Nancy made a motion, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Training - \$600. Nancy made a motion, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Meetings - \$200 – Michele made a motion, seconded by Oram. APPROVED

Water quality testing - \$6813- bi-weekly Loon Lake and Round Pond. Nancy made a motion to increase to \$6850, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Middle Danforth is looking for assistance for cyanobacteria plan. \$2500 total.

Aquatic Invasive Species - \$750 with a repurpose for education and outreach– A motion was made by Megan, seconded by Oram. APPROVED

FAC recommendations

\$7500 forest maintenance account. Nancy made a motion to approve, seconded by Oram. APPROVED

\$8000 town forester – A motion to approve was made by Nancy, seconded by Susan. APPROVED

Controlled burn - \$5000 – a motion to approve was made by Nancy, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Milfoil removal - \$42,000 – a motion to approve was made by Megan, seconded by Nancy.  
APPROVED

NH Lake Host Program - \$3500 – a motion to approve was made by Nancy, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

13 Approval of FCC Invoices – 5221 for DASH diving on October 11 - \$1765.00 – a motion to approve by Megan, seconded by Nancy. APPROVED

BH Keith - \$1087.50 – a motion to approve was made by Nancy, seconded by Susan.  
APPROVED

14 Other business to come before the commission- Susan asked about town website to remove that the FAISC meets every month. Jeff will follow up.

15 Public Comment-

16 Adjourn – Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 pm, Michele seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Donaldson

Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on 11/12//24