

Public Meeting
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 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.

FAC – Jim Guido-PB Rep., Gary Williams-Selectboard Rep., Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt, Nancy Cristoferi-CC Rep.

FCC – Jeff Nicoll, Susan Marks, Michele Keenan, Nancy Cristoferi, Sue Hoople, Megan Broderick (via Zoom)

R.A. Oram, Linda Mailhot, Michele Cloutier and Paul Elie are absent.

2 Approval of January 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – #11 Dr. and Mrs. Raynes were on the phone making public comment. #13 Nancy Ritger is the new director of GMCG. Alexa Kosalek. #11 Wabanaki – re: Yvonne’s comments need more detail – Sue will review the comments and transcribe to send to Melissa. Paul Elie type on name. Yvonne spoke about Danforth and the Bluffs – explained that the Bluffs and Danforth Bay give a list to the town. Add Danforth Bay to the Bluffs on both mentions. #7 wildlife openings WERE done years back. Lines 117-122 add clarity around Freedoms limits Maureen Raynes – why stormwater plan is not automatically required. Impervious was listed at 29.9, Freedoms is 25%. Why didn’t it automatically trigger? Raynes voiced concerns about erosion that they had documented and submitted to the Planning Board. Line 74 – clarify after doing “for the town of Freedom” should run through the FCC. Line 13 – attendees Betsy Eaton and David Lafleur. Row 12 fix FAC from GAC-Oram is the rep.

Yvonne made a motion to approve the changes we have made and have the chance to make any other amendments. Susan seconded. Motion and second withdrawn.

Yvonne made a motion to table approval until next month pending changes & additions. Susan seconded. APPROVED

FAC

Yvonne reported that Barry has done an overview of the possible revenue for the timbering. Maps and overlays – Paul has some large copies of the map so boundaries can be marked to show past cuts. Yvonne and Paul started work on a checklist of maintenance work to be done. There was an accident on the snowmobile trails. Fire Department response time was commendable. There is an invoice from Brooks for \$4500 for ditching work done to date. A total of 900' has been done. Ron made a motion to pay the bill, Jim seconded. APPROVED

There is currently a bill in the NH Senate which is a proposed waiver on the land use tax, trying to favor housing.

Jeff spoke with Dave Cribbie re: assistance to FAC/FCC in the spring to walk where the new road repair is going to happen, to make a road maintenance plan. Would like to see the relationship of FCC/FAC and Scrub Oak Scramblers formalized.

3 Speaker: DNCR Conservation Easement Forester Alexa Kosalek - not present

4 Forest Operational Overview / Timber Forecast – see above

5 Forest Maps and Overlays – see above

6 Scrub Oak Scramblers Update

7 Annual Forest Maintenance Checklist - see above

8 FAC Invoices – see above

Yvonne made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm, Ron seconded. ADJOURNED

FCC

9 Speaker: Green Mountain Conservation Group Ex. Director, Nancy Ritger – Nancy introduced herself. Moselle is the Outreach Coordinator. The Board did introductions. Last year's water testing results will be shared soon. Sue Hoople asked about maps showing areas of concerns. Tara would be the best contact for that. Salting and brining were mentioned.

10 Aquatics Budget Update – Nancy spoke about a grant of \$17,500 from the State. Nancy made a motion that the FCC to accept the grant in the amount of \$17,500. Susan seconded. APPROVED

Nancy made a motion to have Jeff sign the grant, then forward to Selectboard. Michele seconded. APPROVED

11 Water Quality Testing Update and Communications –drafted two letters for Jeff to send, addressing change to GMCG on Danforth and Stony Brook to switch to FCC pay, and the frequency of testing on Loon Lake and Round Pond. The second letter is to Danforth making them aware of the change and asking for an annual contribution to help cover the costs. Jeff made a motion to accept the letters and authorize the chair to send them. Michele seconded. APPROVED

12 Applications for Review

12.1 Danforth Project – review and possibly waive right for FCC intervention on the project. Concerns can be discussed tonight and sent to DES. Megan asked about water needing to be redirected. Yvonne stated that the project needs to be done next fall, due to timing of receipt of the concrete structure.

12.2 Wabanaki Project Review and Discussion – A report was received from Hastings Law. Jeff feels that the Conservation Commission should send another letter to the Planning Board requesting incorporation of a stormwater management plan, review the items that are right on the waterfront. Susan feels that we should recommend that the hutnicks not be considered until they are reviewed by the ZBA. Jeff has a draft letter that could be sent to the Planning Board. It was distributed for review. Edit to include that the Legal opinion was by Hastings, supported by TND Engineering.

Public comment – Yvonne Hoyt – issue of nonpermitted decks and additions. She spoke to Tim Powers about the process at Danforth Bay. The size of the decks is limited by the size of the trailer. Nancy Ritger – supports the FCC having a firm position and offers any support they may offer on that position.

Nancy Cristoferi made a motion to forward the letter to the Planning Board with clarifying edits, seconded by Michele. APPROVED

Nancy made a motion that Jeff get the emergency access plan from the fire chief, with past records. Susan seconded. APPROVED

13 FCC Website Development Update – Nancy and Michele met with Lindsay. Some updates have been done. The NRI is up, mission statement, resources section. FCC bylaws will be added. Some links have been added. Upcoming will be GMCG, Fish and Game, NH Cooperative Extension. Put announcements on the main page under announcements or events. Susan would like a link to the town recycling page. It is on the transfer station/town web site.

Re: donate button. A check would need to be made out to the Town of Freedom. Land donations go through the Selectboard.

14 FCC Invoices – Brooks invoice \$4500– Megan made a motion to approve, Michele seconded. APPROVED

15 Other business to come before the Commission

16 Public Comment

Adjourn – Michele made a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm, Susan seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on
02/11/2025