

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm
Upstairs At the Freedom Town Hall
Minutes

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:
FAC: Paul Elie, Ron Newbury, Jim Guido – PB Rep, Yvonne Hoyt, Gary Williams
FCC: Jeff Nicoll, Megan Broderick, Susan Marks, Nancy Cristoferi, Michele Keenan, Sue Hoople, R.A. Oram
Oram is the FCC rep to the FAC for this evening.
Barry Keith, Dave George, Betsy Eaton and David Lafluer in audience.
- 2 Approval of December 2024 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – FAC – item 3 – include name of new inspector. Alexa Kosalek . Also correct FCC #12 line 1 clarify that Nancy and Megan met with Jill Emerson at GMCG. Line 3 clarify that name of the LLMP add monitoring after the words Lay Lakes. FAC minutes page 1 #8 line 37 future projects in the future should be ongoing. Page 3 line 57 add if we cannot agree on a date. Megan made a motion to approve as amended, Nancy seconded. APPROVED by FAC and FCC

FAC

- 3 Town Forest Annual DNCR Site Visit Report Review – Alexa Kosalek from DNCR did inspection on 12/3/24. No major findings. She will be at next month's meeting. Barry Keith reviewed the visit. Nothing out of the ordinary.
- 4 Town Forester 2025 Project Plan Review – Barry spoke to this item. A copy of this is typically provided to the State.

Paul spoke about volunteers from GMCG who are willing to do plantings in the forest. Two bridges were built with steel, decking and telephone pole were added to a third bridge. The report doesn't follow the same timeline as Barry's contract. Dave George spoke about medallions.

- 5 Trout Pond Trail Repair Update – all set with Selectboard and budget (warrant articles). The down payment was paid to the vendor. They have started clearing some brush.
- 6 Current and Future Projects Review - Forest sign project is on hold until spring. Lock is missing at Purity Springs, one will be needed in the spring.
- 7 FAC Mission Statement – tabled for tonight.

Paul spoke with Stacy re: maps. Barry, please provide an overview of projected cuts. Stewardship plan is quite informative. Jim spoke about a grant that we should apply for.

Jeff asked what Barry's overview would include. Revenue projections?

Ron and Dave spoke about wildlife openings and plantings that were done years back.

Inspector would like a checklist of items such as culverts. Yvonne volunteered to work on this project. Jeff asked if this is to support the overlay map that is being created.

Updating boundary markers, need more printed maps. Yvonne made a motion to start the process of getting more maps. Gary seconded.

APPROVED

Any suggestions for 2025 projects?

Yvonne spoke about needing a new member form. It is on the town website.

8 Public Comment -

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary, seconded by Ron. FAC adjourned at 7 pm.

FCC

9 Aquatics Budget Update – Megan – nothing formal from DES. Informal insights re: approvals. Recommending a \$35000 budget, \$25k for herbicide, \$10,400 for diving. State portion should be \$17,500. \$42000 is being submitted. Oram asked about the need for additional funds that were needed at the end of the year. That was for the Lake Host Program. Funds have been requested from Ossipee and Freedom for this year. Few Fridays will be done this year. Traffic went down toward the end of the summer. A calendar can now be built, and we should be able to spend less time and get comparable or better results. We are still considered part of the Tri-Town group.

Michele asked about coverage during the bass tournaments. Historically we have not, but it is something we should be looking at. You would have to have someone there very early, and the boats need to be able to get in and out fast. Bass like the weed coverage from milfoil.

Megan asked about discussion about informing Selectboard about the change in the spend, including all testing. Inform GMCG that all the testing they are doing for the Town of Freedom should run through the FCC. Megan will draft a note.

10 Applications for Review – received in a different format than in the past. Town clerk has forwarded some notices of permits, applications received. DES One-stop – could not locate the applications. January ZBA meeting was cancelled.

11 Wabanaki Overall Project Review and Discussion – since the last meeting, info was shared re: stormwater management plan via two letters to the

Planning Board. Planning Board met on the same project, Jeff was present. The Planning Board limited the scope of the site plan review to just the expansion of the hutnicks. A conditional approval of the site plan was given pending a final land revision be submitted for the next meeting. Discussions were held regarding impervious surfaces. Applicant will come back with a separate application that is for improvements, decks, sites, all activities not related to the hutnick expansion. Applicant agreed to comply with stormwater management plan. If it is over 25% impervious in the buffer it will require a professionally stamped stormwater management plan.

Michele asked who will hold them to their word.

FCC will be persuasive about roads and decks being impervious.

Oram spoke about his feelings re: concentrating all efforts on hutnicks. What will happen with all the trailers that are stacked up? Photographs in the packet from Dr. Raines, how were they taken? How, when and who took them? Did they have permission to be on the property?

Sue spoke about the shoreland impact permit. McConkey's plans were mentioned. Bumpouts were discussed as impervious surfaces. Septics were spoken of. Oram asked if the FCC will be seeing the new plan before the Planning Board.

Oram commented about the two letters that have been sent. No action on them has been seen. No feedback was received from the Selectboard. Would a third letter have impact? We are looking at a property with a density of trailers, 780 feet of frontage on the lake. We are being stonewalled. RSAs and Master Plan need to be read. Clean river and lakes was a focus of the Master Plan survey. Get a copy of the document that the Fire Department gets each year. Jeff feels that if the FCC requests the document from the applicant, we may be able to get it. Oram made a motion for the chairman to send a letter to the owner of the campground, Susan seconded. APPROVED

Yvonne Hoyt asked about Wabanaki having any folks that pay personal property tax. There are three that are taxed apart from the remainder of the lots. She explained that the Bluffs and Danforth Bay give a list to the town each year with information about each site and owner. Danforth Bay and the Bluffs have a document that campers have to sign every year. A stormwater plan will be very detailed.

Tim Powers would be a good resource.

Dr. & Maureen Raynes were on the phone making public comment.

Maureen Raynes – why was a stormwater plan not automatically triggered?
On McConkey's plan, impervious was listed at 29.9%, Freedom's limit is 25%. The Raynes also have concerns about erosion that they had documented and submitted to the Planning Board.

12 FCC Website Development Update – Michele spoke to this item. She and Nancy met with Lindsay. There is a list in the packet. Needs to clarify the procedure to donate money with Stacy. They are looking at updating the website in the next year or two, but we should go ahead and do what we can do with it in the meantime.

Mission statement draft was read. A motion to accept the mission statement and post on the website was made by Oram, seconded by Jeff. APPROVED It will be added to the NRI. There will be links added to the site rather than having them embedded into the website. Megan spoke about having the maps on there, and best management practices. Jeff asked if we are adding to the singular page we reside on now, or are we able to expand? Yes, we are able to do that.

13 Other business to come before the Commission – Nancy Ritger – new director of GMCG, reached out and would like to come to our next meeting. Alexa from NCR and Nancy from GMCG will be at the next meeting.

Linda Mailhot is not seeking another term as alternate to the Conservation Commission.

14 Public Comment

Adjourn – Michele made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 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 01/14/2025