

Public Meeting
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 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 6:32 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:

FCC – Megan Broderick, Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Sue Hoople, Nancy Cristoferi,

FAC – Ron Newbury, Paul Elie, Gary Williams – Select Board Rep.

James Guido, Susan Marks, Michele Keenan are absent.

Dave George of the Scrub Oak Scramblers is also present.

Oram is the Conservation Commission rep to the FAC.

2 Approval of February 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – Line 51 – FAC and SOS formalized – there is an agreement that was made in 2005. It was not signed. Discussion ensued, no changes to minutes. Line 91 – add FCC to intervention. Line 110 – Nancy (add Cristoferi). Oram made a motion to approve as amended, Megan seconded. APPROVED

FAC

3 FAC Mission Statement – Paul made a motion to table to next month's meeting. Ron seconded. APPROVED

4 Forester Contract – dates need to be changed throughout. Location of project – add Freedom, NH. Pg 4 – managing entity – last updated in 2019. Pg 4 – agreement date needs to be amended. Pg 5 – item 3 – year needs to be updated. 4.4 compensation needs to be updated to \$8000. Exhibit A is the work plan May 2025 to April 2026. Forester would like to change dates to a calendar year. The town budget cycle is the reason that we have it the way it is. Appendices - There are no words that indicate that DNCR forest stewardship plan has input to the documents. Paul will make the corrections to the document. There are two task 6's.

5 Forest Overlay Maps, Maintenance Checklist, Boundary markings – 67 prescriptions, 29 are priority tasks. 20 other tasks are 0-15 years. Yvonne is

working on a schedule. A walk through in the spring will provide additional information that will help with boundaries and overlay maps, as well as beefing up the contract. Ask Madison Fire Chief to take a look at the road to the gate on Lead Mine Road.

6 Old Home Week Forest Tours – Paul met with Josh Battles, he is willing to do either Saturday. There is no charge. Megan suggested having people pre-register.

7 Student Volunteers – Green Mountain Conservation Group has students from Prospect Mountain High School, National Honor Society who want to do some work in the forest. No power tools. Culverts, tree trimming, cleanup, etc. Painting the kiosks was also mentioned as a possibility for the volunteers.

8 Other Business, Tree trimming –

Senate Bill on land use & housing, was killed.

TNC burn may or may not happen this year, due to funding issues.
Alexa Kosalek will be here next month.

Yvonne made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm, Ron seconded. The FAC meeting was adjourned.

FCC

9 FAC/FCC Membership and officers – FCC – consider next month, Oram will be asking to become a standard member as opposed to Vice Chair. Megan volunteered to step up into that position. Linda Mailhot and Michel Cloutier are not continuing.

10 Aquatics Update – application for NH grant was submitted. Contracts will be given to Stacy for signatures. NH Lakes – Lake Host program – our grant is \$3100 this year. Town article approved for \$3500. We have two leads that are interested in being lake hosts. Nancy volunteered to take on the Lake Host program this year. NH Lakes Congress is June 5.

11 2025 Town Meeting Overview – everything was approved. The forest maintenance fund is going to be depleted this year. Timber harvesting will replenish some funds. Consider starting a capital reserve type fund. Have grants come up as an agenda item more often. Oram will call Fish and Game to see what is available.

12 Applications for Review

Notices from DES – who follows up on these?

12.1 Wabanaki Project Review and Discussion - Planning Board – the application was continued to April. We received a copy of the application from Wabanaki to the State. Jeff will read a section of the letter the FCC wrote out loud at the April Planning Board meeting. We need to focus on influencing the other Boards. Also send a letter to the State. Go to the Selectmen with a letter requesting a certified stormwater plan. Megan spoke about E Coli testing.

Nancy made a motion to send the letters to the Selectboard and to the State. Oram seconded. APPROVED

13 FCC Invoices - none

14 Other business to come before the Commission – Loon lead tackle program. Lakes Region Planning Commission sent a letter regarding putting boxes at the Transfer Station. It will have to go to the Selectmen.

15 Public Comment – Paul Elie - there is one engineering report coming. There is a report by a member of the Planning Board coming out.

16 Adjourn – Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, Megan seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary