

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
6:30 pm
At the Freedom Town Hall

1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC - The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:

FCC – Susan Marks, Jeff Nicoll, Megan Broderick, R.A. Oram, Nancy Cristoferi, Sue Hoople, Michele Keenan

FAC – Paul Elie, Yvonne Hoyt, Jim Guido-Planning Board Rep., Gary Williams-Selectmen’s Rep.

Dave George of the Scrub Oak Scramblers is also present.

Oram is the FCC rep to the FAC

2 Approval of March 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – Line 13 – Dave George “of the Scrub Oak Scramblers”. Line 48 – remove the words a bunch of kids, change to Green Mtn Conservation has coordinated with Prospect Mtn High School National Honor Society members. Paul made a motion to approve FAC as amended, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

FCC – Nancy made a motion to approve as amended, Sue seconded.

APPROVED

January 21, 2025 meeting minutes – Megan made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

FAC

3 Guest speaker Alexa Kosalek NH DNCR – Alexa explained the organization she works for and what her job entails. Oram asked how many legacy properties are formed under 31a or 36a. Abutting landowners not respecting boundary lines is a big problem for legacy properties. Dumping is another problem area.

4 Forester Contract – dates, etc. were updated. Appendix A is the updated scope of work. A motion to approve as written was made by Paul , seconded by Gary APPROVED

- 5 Old Home Week Forest Tours – Old Home Week Committee will be handling the signups. It will start at the gate off Shawtown Road, go up to Trout Pond and come back. There will be two rides. This will occur on the second Saturday of Old Home Week 2 August 2025.
- 6 Student Work Study Program – Green Mountain Conservation Group received a call from Prospect Mountain High School, National Honor Society. They will be helping with installing the signage. Each student will be receiving a folder with information about the Forest in it. This is scheduled for April 23. Two Americorp members will be attending also.
- 7 Invoices – BH Keith, 1/31/25 \$1537.50 and on 3/12 for \$262.50. Gary made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED
- 8 Other Business – Yvonne has been working on the annual checklist. All volunteer hours should be recorded for use as a match for grant funds. At least 3 locks are needed for the Forest, preferably 4. Maps need to be laminated as well. Gary spoke about the police visiting the Select Board regarding 5k races, he suggested that perhaps some of the trails could be used. An application would need to be submitted.

FCC

- 9 FAC/FCC Membership and officers – Rules of Procedure were reviewed. No changes were suggested.

FAC – Oram noted that the Planning Board Rep should be on the FCC not the FAC. Rules of procedure would need to be changed to reflect this. Jim would like to be on the FAC. He could possibly be the PB rep to the FCC as well. This will be floated by the Selectboard.

The FCC could recommend that Jim become a member of the FAC and ask for clarification about the Planning Board position being moved to the FCC.

Jim nominated Paul as Chair of the FAC, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

Jim nominated Yvonne as Vice Chair, Gary seconded. APPROVED

Nancy nominated Jeff as Chair, Oram seconded. APPROVED

Michele nominated Megan as Vice Chair, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

Yvonne made a motion to adjourn the FAC, Paul seconded. The FAC was adjourned.

10 Aquatics Presentation GMCG – Jill Emerson, Staff Scientist and Emma from Americorp are present. Emma led the discussion of the Rivers Program. Packets were distributed. There was nothing of acute concern. Danforth – conductivity is noted. Cold Brook – conductivity. Nitrate and chloride exceeded pristine standards. Phosphates exceeded there in August. Shawtown Brook – nothing of concern or note. Square Brook – conductivity was lower but exceeded the standard. West Branch River – conductivity was great there, some issues with oxygen. Huckins Pond outflow – conductivity looked great. Something is influencing the oxygen rather than temperature. Phosphorous was stable. Cold Brook – near Huckins – not monitored in 2024.

Small scale issues were relationships between dissolved oxygen and temperature. Conductivity – 3 sites exceeded standards, but were improved from previous years. Road salting is the biggest cause of that. Nitrated and chloride exceeded pristine standards. Chloride can be tied to road salt. Nitrates are often introduced from human and animal waste. Ph was higher in 2024 than it had been in past years in all locations.

Sue asked if Bennett Brook has any testing done. Sites can be added, but additional financial support would be required. The cost is \$15 per phosphorous sample, additional cost if GMCG does the collection. E Coli testing is \$30 per sample.

Loon Lake had phosphorous and dissolved oxygen issues.

All reports are on the GMCG website. NH DES onestop is a resource.

Jill asked about sampling for the 2025 season. Loon Lake is being sampled monthly. A note will be drafted to the Loon Lake Assn. explaining this. Brenda Lemay is the chair of the Association.

She also clarified that Shawtown Brook and Stony Brook were mislabeled in the letter that was sent to her.

Storm runoff special testing will be done at Danforth Pond by the Danforth Association.

Paul asked if anything was being done on Trout Pond. Samples were done in March of 2024. Email Jill when the road is complete.

GMCG has had some success getting back into Freedom Elementary School this year.

11 Aquatics update -

- GMCG newsletters- timing and opportunity – NH Lakes Application was approved for \$3100. Less hours will be done this year. Info on fishing derbies is needed. Two people who did the program last year are interested in doing so again this year. Send a letter to Ossipee. Volunteers could be sought from Ossipee in lieu of financial contribution. Jeff made a motion that we draft a letter for our Selectmen to urge Ossipee to get on board. Michele seconded. APPROVED
- Lake Host program update- above.
- Solitude permitting and notice to abutters – all set on this. Waiting for the State to come in and let us know where treatment is needed.

12 Applications for Review

12.1 Wabanaki Project Review and Discussion-letter was sent to NH DES. A response was received. They are planning on doing a site inspection soon and will communicate to us on their findings. A similar letter was sent to the Selectmen by the FCC, asking them to leverage the penalties for unpermitted, etc. and expressing the importance of a certified stormwater plan. Les Babb explained that Jeff needs to go through the Zoning Officer first. He has communicated to him and does not have a reply yet. Oram made a motion that the Board vote on giving Jeff permission to go before the Selectboard regarding this issue, Nancy seconded. APPROVED
Susan asked about letters that went to the Planning Board.
Sue made a motion that the proposed plans at Wabanaki be considered a development of regional impact. Discussion ensued regarding regional impact. Michele is concerned about over alienating. There is no second on the motion.

12.2 6 Liguori Dr – shoreline stabilization. No issues noted.

13 FCC Invoices – BH Keith \$1537.50 and \$262.50 – Michele made a motion to approve the invoices, Sue seconded. APPROVED

14 Other business to come before the Commission – volunteers to pick up Loon Lead Program gear in Moultonboro on April 28. Nancy can do it.

15 Public Comment – Bruce Howlett – spoke regarding building done pre-zoning. How do you find middle ground between what happened then and now?

Adjourn - Michele made a motion to adjourn at 9:42pm, Nancy seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on 04/08/2025

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary