

**Fremont Conservation Commission
12-03-12 Meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of
December 3, 2012
Approved as amended January 7, 2013**

Present: Chairman Bill Knee, Co- Chairman Janice O'Brien, Member Pat deBeer, Alt. Leanne Miner, Alt/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Knee opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. deBeer made the motion to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2012 meeting as written. Alt. Miner seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote except for Mbr. O'Brien who abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

There was a conversation relative to how and when the OSC was formed. Mbr. O'Brien corrected a statement that was made at the November 5, 2012 meeting relative to the formation of the OSC by stating the OSC was formed for the purpose of bringing forward a warrant Article to fund acquisition of land for the purposes of preserving open space.

A packet of the information that Mbr. deBeer researched from meeting minutes of the board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission and OSC was distributed to each Member and the following was determined.

- The Selectmen approved the OSC as an advisory to the Conservation Commission. The original name was the Open Space Advisory.
- Tuesday December 2, 2003 was the first formal meeting of the "Fremont Open Space Committee". The Selectmen appointed the first Co-Chairmen.
- The initial funding for printing and mailing for the passage of the combined bonds came from PREP grant, PSNH grant and the Conservation Commission.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to clarify the title of the Open Space Committee to be that of the "Fremont Open Space Advisory" as it was originally created.

Following further discussion relative to the intent of the OSC group the motion was seconded by Chrm. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

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It was agreed that the OSC page of the Town web site be changed to reflect this vote.

Mbr. O'Brien clarified the purpose of two Open Space accounts.

- The first account was to deposit monies acquired either from the Conservation Commission or by grant funding awards. This account was used for all promotional materials ie the multiple flyers OSC sent out to the general public and funding professional presentations.
- The second account was a separate and distinct account that held only the monies that people had given in good faith to fund the option that ultimately resulted in the down payment to the Lawrence's for the acquisition of Glen Oakes.

There was a discussion relative to how the OSC should continue to operate. Chrm. Knee said there are alternatives in that the Open Space Advisory can: 1) remain as is; 2) add a piece to the original mission statement to include trails maintenance; and 3) not have an Open Space Advisory. It was agreed that option #3 is least desirable because the OSC is bound to the public trust for the grant that exists and the rules should not be changed. Chrm. Knee explained that when the voting body was considering whether to pass the bond it was done with a consideration of certain promises made by the OSC relative to the OSC having established safeguards on the process of choosing properties for open space purchase including a working criteria that they would use to evaluate properties, then make a recommendation to the Conservation Commission, and hold a public hearing on any proposed purchase in accordance with the RSA.

Mbr. deBeer showed a draft of revision of the Mission Statement for the OSC that Dennis Howland had sent to her. She said he had questions about evaluating properties.

BANK OF NEW ENGLAND

Map 3 Lot 056

The Commission received and reviewed a comment sheet and corresponding plan from the Planning Board relative to an application for a subdivision Design Review for a possible fourteen lot open space development. After a review of the plan and with the authorization of the Members, Chrm. Knee submitted the comment sheet with the following comment:

The Conservation Commission would advise the Planning Board to consider the following:

- *Deed restrictions e placed on the properties to prevent degradation of existing wetlands.*
- *The plan should include notes stating that this will be:*
 1. *No land alteration or filling of wetlands and its buffer.*
 2. *That the existing hard pack road not be paved, sanded or salted. Such actions should take place to prevent degradation of existing wetlands.*

ERLAC

The Commission received the 2010 ERLAC dues invoice in the amount of \$150.00. Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the invoice be paid from the ERLAC dues line in the current budget. The motion was seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

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Mbr. deBeer reported that ERLAC has been working on the Water management plan.

PRIME WETLAND

There was a conversation relative to the change in the criteria for prime wetland buffer as per the legislation. There is a 100' buffer for any wetland designated and approved after 2007, but not for those approved prior to 2007.

TOWN FOREST

Easements:

Mbr. deBeer reported that the Roy Foundation has awarded a \$1,000 grant to put toward the Oak Ridge Easement and we will received the award letter possibly by the end of the year.

Mbr. deBeer voiced concerned that to satisfy the conditions of the original Land and Water Conservation grant used to purchase Oak Ridge, we must insure that the upcoming easement for Oak Ridge does not include anything that would include providing for handicap access. There needs to be follow-up on the conditions of the grants that have already been awarded. The Members agreed that a position should be designated to oversee a task improvement list/ plan to follow up on these grants.

Mbr. deBeer said there are two projects that have been discussed by the Commission and need to be done:

- 1) Easement in Oak Ridge
- 2) Forest & Wildlife Management Plan for Smith

Mbr. deBeer said that Charlie Moreno has submitted an estimate for the Management Plan and there needs to be an estimate for the cost of the Easement. She suggested adding a sum to be determined to the Conservation Projects line of next year's Conservation Commission budget for these projects. This prompted a conversation relative to how much the cost estimate could be.

GRANTS:

Mbr. deBeer voiced her concern relative to grant monitoring. The Members agreed to schedule work time within the CC meetings to develop a monthly task schedule that will include reviewing the requirements of the grants we have already received.

AWARD

Mbr. O'Brien reported that on Wednesday December 5, 2012 she and Chrm. Knee will be attending the Rockingham County Woodland Owners Association to accept the John Hoar award for the Town of Fremont's efforts in conserving Land. She said that this was nominated by Gene Cordes.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no incoming correspondence.

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At 9:55 pm Mbr. deBeer made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Chrm. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is January 7, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary