

**Fremont Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Hall
Fremont, NH**

**June 1, 2015
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Knee called the meeting of the Fremont Conservation Commission to order at 7:00 PM at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044.

Present were: Commission members Bill Knee, Pat deBeer, and Leanne Miner, Janice O'Brien, Dan Horsburgh, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 4, 2015

Pat deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2015 as amended. Leanne Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

III. DAN HORSBURGH

Mr. Horsburgh wanted to make the town aware of an 112-acre piece of property jointly owned by his sister and him. The primary property number was 561 (and 33). They would like to see this property protected and not developed for any reason. On it, the property has a beaver swamp/dam, and a heron nesting site. The Horsburghs wanted the Town to own and have use of the land (conservation/recreation). They are taking care of their mother and wanted to somehow earn money for the land to support her. The property has its own deed. The rest of the property that the family owns on Beede Road abuts the piece in question as well as a part of Shirkin Road (so there is some access). He had read that the Commission was able to get assistance in acquiring conservation easement on some properties. He wondered if the Town still had money set aside for purchasing recreational land (where the Warrant did not pass this year). If the Town had no interest, they would look into other ways to get an easement on it or sell it to another foundation. One way or another, the family wanted the land conserved.

Ms. O'Brien remembered talking with the family about this property a few years ago with other local owners and their property. She asked if Mr. Horsburgh had a preference for a partner in conservation – The Forest Society or Southeast Land Trust. He said either was fine, though he knew Southeast Land Trust a bit better. Ms. O'Brien said that typically the Town buys land and works with either conservation entity (and grants them a conservation easement, which ensures in perpetuity that the land never be developed). The conservation entity monitors the land. The terms of the easement are negotiable. Mr. Horsburgh said one aspect they wanted was to have no motorized vehicles (although snowmobile access would be permitted). Hunting and fishing would be permitted as well.

The property has already been to Open Space for grading. Ms. Miner found in the office files and Ms. O'Brien saw that that the parcel score was high (71). The date of the evaluation was uncertain and it was suggested that minutes during the 2006-2007 time period might have the date. Copies were made and distributed. Mr. Knee said that there were grant opportunities to find conservation funding. The Conservation would look into agencies to see where there would be money. The process begins with land evaluation, then recommendations are done. An appraisal would be done by a certified (objective) appraiser to see what the fair market value is of the parcel. Mr. Knee explained that as land comes out of current use, a small percentage of it is set aside towards the Commission (conservation fund) (which might be used to pay for the appraisal).

Mr. Knee would find out an appropriate way to have assistance from Ms. O'Brien (either as an individual, as an alternate to the Commission, etc.). Ms. O'Brien wanted to help (even if she had to fill a spot).

Ms. O'Brien gave suggestions on the next steps after the evaluation is done and recommendation is given by the Open Space. The Conservation Commission can accept/reject the evaluation/recommendation. If accepted, the Commission (Chair and Vice Chair) talks with the Board of Selectmen, saying what they were interested in (pursuing an easement), giving them the assessed value etc. The Commission would ask for authorization to contract with a certified appraiser to get an appraisal/fair market value. At this time the Commission could talk with one of the conservation entities. The Board of Selectmen signs the P&S and hold a public hearing. Ms. O'Brien thought it might make sense for the Horsburghs to work with Southeast Land Trust where Mr. Horsburgh knew more people (also that entity works with abutting land owners).

IV. SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST – GARRISON PROPERTY

(Letter re. PREP Grant not being used by the Cons. Com. update)

Mr. Knee informed that Ms. Bolduc drafted a letter regarding the PREP grant not being used by the Conservation Committee. He signed the letter after waiting a week (as was requested) to mail it. This was in compliance. Later in this meeting, Mr. Knee read the letter that was sent.

V. CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

Ms. Miner thought that Tuck Woods was left to monitor. She will confirm this and if there is a new monitoring form available and what is required to do the easement.

VI. WILDLIFE & FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (STATUS UPDATE)

Mr. Knee would contact Charlie Moreno for an update.

VII. CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION

A. CC2015 BUDGET

The treasurer's C.C. account balances were reviewed. Ms. deBeer would look at prior minutes to see if the Selectmen recommended that the Conservation Commission budget be increased by \$600.

B. TREASURER'S CC ACCOUNT REPORT (AS OF APRIL 30, 2015)

Nothing remarkable was noted.

C. ONGOING LIST OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FY15 (NO BUDGET)

- Drinking Water Conference
- Watershed Conference (storm water controls, permeable pavement, initiatives)
- Forest Society Workshop
- NH Conservation Commission Association Workshop
- Rockingham Planning Commission Annual Meeting at Zorvino Vineyards, Sandown, 6/10/15
- Coastal NH Climate Summit: Science to Support Action: 6/19/15

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included:

- Email from Heidi Carlson regarding a letter for a program that the Town's interest in participating in the second phase of the Water Integration for the Squamscott-Exeter (WISE) project titled "Planning Across Boundaries: Watershed Collaboration for Nutrient Reduction"

- Eben Lewis (DES) letter to Brian C. Frost (Beede Road) noting that on May 7, 2015, the property was inspected (to determine compliance with RSA 482-A) and found that an intermittent stream and adjacent wetland had been impacted from dredging for the purposes of creating a pond. DES requests that all exposed soils be immediately stabilized with seed/mulch; photographic documentation be provided by May 29th; and an after-the-fact wetlands permit application be submitted by July 18th to retain the pond and bridge.
- Trustlow Resource Consulting LLC brochure

IX. OTHER

Ms. Miner said she could help Ms. deBeer with grant work.

X. WORKING PLAN

The following is a working plan with some results in italics.

TASK	STATUS
Set up a monitoring scheduled for the Town owned Conservation Easements. (As the holder of an easement, the Town is obligated to monitor each easement once per year.) Compile a list of land with conservation easements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get copies of each easement - Generate a checklist for each easement 	Ongoing
Prospective Oak Ridge Easement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roy Foundation 	Done
Review the obligations for grants already awarded including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land & Water Conservation Fund (Set up for the acquisition of Oak Ridge) - Moose Plate, Recreational Trails Program, PREP Transaction Grant (Glen Oakes) - Smith Property: Davis, Fields Pond, Cricket and Wharton, Moose Plate and LCHIP, PREP (Smith property, now part of Glen Oakes) 	Est. due June 2015
Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan – Review for updates	Ongoing
Oak Ridge Forestry Management Plan – Review for updates	Ongoing
Natural Resource Inventory – Review for recommendations for updates of information and maps. (Charlie Moreno is reviewing for Glen Oakes area)	Ongoing
Earth Day event(s) for the current year	No action planned for 2015
Biothon – discuss a possible event for the current year	No funding available for 2015
Reorganization of the Conservation Commission	Done
Budget for 2015	
Compiled of all of the grants that have been awarded to the Town and create a checklist of the requirements of each grant that can be reviewed annually. Any future grant can be added to the compilation.	Ongoing

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: JULY 13, 2015

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9 PM, Leane Miner made a motion to adjourn. Pat deBeer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry,
Recording Secretary