

Fremont Conservation Commission
04-20-09 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of April 20, 2009
Approved May 4, 2009

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien and Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Also present: Dennis Howland

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2009 non-public meeting as written.

The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

TRAILS

There was a conversation relative to creating trails to link to existing trails in Glen Oakes to alleviate the ones that go nowhere. Mr. Howland discussed the possibility of extending two separate paths on the eastern side of Glen Oakes. The first extension discussed was going from the powerline at the end of the Porcupine Den Trail (green) west in the powerline easement towards Andreski Drive and then north to the Forest Loop Trail. He concluded that more investigation is needed to plan this section. He also talked about making a trail that connects between the Woodland Trail and the Barred Owl Trail just in from the eastern boundary of Glen Oakes. The Members discussed alternative areas for trail connections.

The Members followed a suggestions outline drafted by Mr. Howland to discuss the overall objective of adding trails, which would be to connect trails to nowhere. The following general guidelines were discussed: 1) look for scenic routes; 2) consistent or gentle grades; 3) look for routes which would result in the least amount of "disturbance", easiest to construct and maintain; 4) avoid water crossings whenever possible; and 5) leverage existing trail network, both on and off the property.

Removing stones from stone walls was questioned and it was noted that NH RSA 472:6 restricts alteration of a wall if it is made for the purpose of designating a point, course or line in the boundary of a tract of land. There was a conversation relative to trails within the power line easement. Mbr. O'Brien agreed to look into the language of the easement to see who would need to grant permission

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for the use of the property. In answer to a question of whether trees could be removed if necessary, it was noted that the Town Forest Ordinance does not prohibit the removal of trees.

Chrm. Karcz asked if it is important to be consistent with the method of trail marking and signage. He noted that he has marked the trails in Oak Ridge with the descriptive brown aluminum signs. In Glen Oakes Mr. Howland is proposing to use colored plastic arrows. Mbr. O'Brien suggested that the same type of signs as in Oak Ridge could be used for the main trails (and junctions) and the smaller, path-like trails could be marked with colored markers like ribbons, spray paint, arrows, stakes, etc.

Mrs. Bolduc asked if the Members had decided on a name for the footpath through the Pike Lot to Copp Drive, noting that at the last meeting Pikes Pass and Hare Track Trail were discussed. The Members agreed on Pikes Pass.

The Members agreed to schedule a visit to Glen Oaks for Saturday April 25, 2009 at 8:30 am to get a general consensus of where trail connections should go. The Members agreed to meet at the main entrance at Andreski Drive. Mbrs. Sturdivant and Knee will be notified.

NATURAL RESOURCE PUBLICATION

Mbr. deBeer said that she has put an article in the Newsletter letting people know about the Natural Outreach Publication, the receipt of the grant that makes the project possible and asking for photos of flooding in Fremont and/or nature photos taken here.

Using the worksheet that Mbr. deBeer updated from the last meeting, the Members present agreed (and Mbr. Sturdivant and Knee agreed via phone) that they would use the newspaper format for the publication for several reasons; 1) it is the most cost-effective; 2) it would afford the largest amount of information; and 3) it allows for the possibility of adding an insert. The publication will target Fremont residents who are interested in learning more about Fremont's Natural Resources and what they can do to protect them. The Members agreed that the possible objectives/goals would be to raise awareness about issues relating to wetlands and riparian buffers; raise awareness about natural resource issues effecting Fremont and what residents can do to protect these resources; and to give the residents how-to suggestions which they can do at home to protect natural resources and water quality. The top 10 priorities for topics listed on the worksheet include 1) Role of the Conservation Commission; 2) Wetlands; 3) Wetland Buffers; 4) Riparian Corridor; 5) Impervious Surfaces; 6) Flooding; 7) Improving Buffers; 8) Drinking Water Safety; 9) Protecting Water Resources; and 10) State Regulations and Fremont Ordinances. It was agreed that the Members would author articles about some of the topics. Mbr. O'Brien agreed to do articles on Wetlands and Buffers; Mbr. deBeer agreed to do articles on The Riparian Corridor and Drinking Water Safety; Chrm. Karcz agreed to do an article on Impervious Surfaces. The authoring of the remaining topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

The worksheet also included who has signed into the Wiki to write and/or edit pieces of the topics of the publication.

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ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer said that the vernal pool workshop is scheduled for May 16, 2009. The participants will meet at the top floor of the Town Hall at 10:00 am so set-up should be 9-9:15 am.

WETLANDS ZONING ORDINANCE

Chrm. Karcz reported that NH DOT has approved the application for \$3,000 in CTAP discretionary funds to conduct a wetland ordinance audit. Mark West, Wetland Scientist with West Environmental, Inc., has been contacted and agreed that he can review Fremont's existing Wetland Ordinance for missing and/or outdated setback requirements including graduated buffers and increased/decreased buffers in the prime wetland areas as well as those of standard wetland areas. The final product would be an amendment of the ordinance that would focus on missing buffer elements and modify the existing buffer requirements.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received: Notice from the Town of Epping Planning Board of an April 23, 2009 Public Hearing concerning an amended Site Plan & Special Conditional Use Permit by Seacoast United Soccer Club on Shirkin Road for additional parking and an outdoor pavilion. Chrm. Karcz reported that the Planning Board has sent a letter to the Epping Planning Board relating that Fremont has serious concerns about traffic on, and degradation of, Shirkin Road as a result of current and possible increased traffic because of the Seacoast United Soccer Club and requests that the applicant meet with the Fremont Planning Board relative to offsite upgrades to Shirkin Road prior to the approval of any Site Plan or Conditional Use Permit amendment. There was a brief conversation relative to run-off from the fields when it rains as well as the condition of Shirkin and Rogers Roads.
2. Received: Notice of the April 25, 2009 UNH Vernal Pools and Wetland Wildlife outdoor session in Hancock, NH.
3. Received: Notice of the 2009 UNH Cooperative Extension Vernal Pools and Wetland Wildlife Spring Wildlife Workshop Series.
4. Received: Notice and registration form for the July 20 – 31 UNH Watershed Ecology course.
5. Received: From UNH Wildlife Specialist Matt Tarr, a complimentary "Importance of Hydroperiod in Wetland Assessment" CD and an order form for copies @ \$10.00 each. (The cover letter said this guide can be used to help to identify and assess critical wildlife habitats and that a low resolution PDF file for printing free can be downloaded at www.nhwoods.org.)
6. Received: Notice of the upcoming June 13, 2009 Lamprey River Watershed protection session.
7. Received: A copy of the spring 2009 edition of the SPNHF Monitor.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary