

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, Members Pat deBeer, Rich Cooper, and Cindy Crane (remote). Also present was Eric McClaughlin.

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**To join by phone (audio only)** [+1 929-229-5722](#) (Toll Call); **Conference ID: 863 242 226#**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and announced the following:

In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Orders, the Conservation Commission is permitted to utilize emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct this meeting through electronic means. The following E-meeting procedures will be followed in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order:

1. If anyone has problems with accessing the meeting, they can call the Town Hall at 603 895-3200, extension 306 or email [landuse@fremont.nh.gov](mailto:landuse@fremont.nh.gov) for assistance during the meeting.
2. If for some reason the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned.

## **I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Miner conducted a roll call of meeting attendees and public participants. The following Conservation Commission Members responded as present:

1. Leanne Miner
2. Cindy Crane (remote)
3. Pat deBeer
4. Rich Cooper
5. Bill Knee

## **II. MINUTES**

**Mr. Knee motioned to accept the minutes of November 16, 2020. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the vote was unanimous 5-0.**

**Mr. Knee motioned to accept the amended minutes of December 7, 2020. Ms. deBeer seconded, and the vote was unanimous 5-0.**

Ms. deBeer would like on record why she disagreed with the Commission on letting the trapper take 3 hare instead of 2 in Glen Oakes. We know from Fish and Game that there are significantly fewer hare in southern New Hampshire than in the rest of the state and we do not have accurate data for the population of hare in Glen Oakes. Second, there is a virus in the west that affects wild hare and it is spreading and it is lethal to wild hare. Fish and Game are inoculating the hare they release in the wild because of this infection. If the hare in Glen Oakes get this infection, the Glen Oakes hare population will decrease rapidly. And thirdly, hare are a primary food source for larger mammals such as coyote, bobcat and lynx.

**Ms. Crane mentioned that the fire fighter chemical AFFF is the compound that she was referring to is toxic, not hazardous. Ms. Miner noted the changes and will contact the FFD to inquire if AFFF is used in Fremont.**

## **III. CONTINUED BUSINESS**

1. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) – The NRI still requires formatting and is with the Land Use Office for completion.
2. Open Space Report - Ms. Miner stated that Open Space Committee has been talking about the process of ranking properties for conservation according to various criteria. There has also been discussion about the Connect the Coast wildlife corridors from the updated NRI and mapping. Ms. deBeer shared her comments on the current Open Space Report with the group and there was discussion about forming a workgroup to discuss update or revisiting the Town's Open Space Plan (in part or in whole to be discussed).

Ms. deBeer agreed to **co-chair** the workgroup with Mr. Cooper ~~a subcommittee~~ to review and make suggestions regarding the Open Space Plan. Mr. Cooper will make the arrangements for our first meeting.

Ms. Miner will handle the notices and administration. The workgroup will ask Mr. Howland from the Open Space Group if he will participate. Mr. Cooper will contact Mr. Howland and Ms. deBeer to select a date.

**Mr. Knee motioned that a workgroup be formed to look at possible updates to the Open Space Plan. Ms. Miner seconded the motion, the vote was 5-0.**

3. Conservation
  - a. Boylan – Ms. Miner stated that the purchase and sale has been signed and she will keep the Committee updated.
  - b. Brett – This is now closed.
4. Town Forest Management – Mr. Knee stated that he spent a couple of hours at Oak Ridge North to check on the conditions of boundary markings using a survey map that Ms. deBeer provided. It has been about 20 years since the trees have been marked. Mr. Knee proposed that the Commission authorize the expenditure for boundary marking paint and flagging. Mr. Knee asked Mr. Cooper to plan with him to complete this and Oak Ridge South.

**Ms. Miner motioned to approve up to \$50 from the Town Forest Management Fund for supplies for the purpose of marking boundaries in the Oak Ridge Forest. Ms. deBeer seconded, the rollcall vote was 5-0.**

Mr. Knee mentioned a truck has been out over the 3 wet spots which he thinks shows that a logging truck should have no problem going there. There was a question if they would need a wetland permit, but this is something that Mark West Environmental Wetlands Specialist and Charlie Marino the Town Forester will handle. Mr. Knee feels after the marking is done planning for the logging should be able to move forward. Mr. Knee will follow up with this project.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**V. OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Ms. Miner stated there are 3 new application before the Land Use Board.

1. Conditional Use Permit submitted by Joe and Doris Nichols of Sandown Rd. to use existing out building they would like to use for home occupation. There will be no land use change. There were no comments.
2. Special Exception request for Scribner Rd Open Space Preservation Development site is going before the ZBA as the access road and some of the driveways will be going through the wetland and wetland buffer. The Committee has done a site walk when this was in the preliminary stage. One of the requests from the Committee at the time was to mark wetland buffer boundaries which the applicant has agreed to. The final center line of the access road is now marked if anyone would like to do a site walk or go see the property on their own. For the ZBA Application. the only comment was to be notified if the Planning Board planned a site walk. The ZBA hearing will be January 26, 2020.
3. Variance request for Map 037 Lot 003 Spaulding Rd. behind Coopers Corner, zoning states these 5 buildings must be built attached the variance request is to build them in 2 separate groups, a duplex and a triplex. This is undeveloped residential property all 5 will be residential units. There were no comments.

## **VI. REPORT FROM OPEN SPACE**

Mr. Howland sent email containing a chart for difficulty and best use of the town trails. There are comments for appropriate trail users including equine and snowmobiles. This chart is a work in progress. They have no ongoing projects but have started thinking of future projects.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION**

1. Calendar – Next Conservation Committee meeting February 1, 2021
2. Administration/Budget – Ms. Miner stated that there is notification of funds remitted to the CC LUCT fund in 2020 in the amount of \$32,750.00 the current balance is \$101,000. Also, the remainder of 2020 appropriated funds remitted to the Conservation Budget Residual Fund is \$1,200.00.
3. Incoming Correspondence – Greg Jordan the Forester for UNH Coop is planning a landowner caring for your forest series. He said that he could lead a tree identifying session in the field in Fremont with the Conservation Commission in the spring or summer. The Committee is very interested, Ms. Miner will contact him to let him know.

Pat forwarded information for funding opportunities for restoration and enhancement. She attended a Zoom presentation with a lot of information about the ARMS funding which is Aquatic Litigation Fund and the email provided links for more information on wetlands mitigation. She recommends this presentation for any members that would like to watch it.

A letter from the Building Inspector cc'd the Committee regarding Map 02 Lot 043 at 55 Danville Rd. for a Notice of Violation/Non-Residential Use Not Permitted. This has been an ongoing issue and the Board of Selectmen are involved.

Ms. deBeer mentioned that she saw mention in minutes from approx. 2014 regarding Conservation Commission having no responsibility for monitoring easements under their care, Mr. Knee stated that is incorrect. Ms. deBeer will send this information to Mr. Knee to review.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, Mr. Knee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Ms. deBeer seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was unanimous 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leanne", written in dark ink.

Leanne Miner