

**Fremont Conservation Commission
10-3-11 Meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of October 3, 2011**

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

Chrm. O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. Knee made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous vote.

TOWN FOREST

Chrm. O'Brien reported that the Commission received an August 26, 2011 correspondence from Anna Christie-Carnicella of SPNHF relative to her recent visit to the 312-acre Glen Oakes Town Forest for the purpose of a routine conservation easement monitoring inspection. Ms. Christie-Carnicella reported that she met with Dennis Howland on Copp Drive and accessed the property through the 24-acre Glen Oakes Associated property on which the Forest Society holds a conservation easement. She reported the following concerns:

- Evidence of ATV and dirt bike use on the Forest Loop trail and at the access point in the northeast corner of the property.
- A series of forts constructed from 3" to 4" tree trunks along the boundary abutting the house lots on the east side of Andreski Drive.
- Several small trees have been cut on Town property that appear to match the size of the trees comprising the forts.
- There was a significant amount of slash and grass clippings dumped along (what they presumed to be) the northeast corner of the boundary line and the owners of that home have extended a dirt woods road onto the Town Forest. ("Presumed" because they could not locate the corner east of the Andreski Drive parking area.)

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Ms. Christie-Carnicella noted that these encroachments are not violations of the easement, but they are trespass issues that the Town should address.

The Members agreed that a letter be drafted to the Police Department outlining the trespass concerns and requesting they have an unfrontational conversation with the neighbors letting them know that they have encroached on Town property on which the NH Forest Society holds a conservation easement.

PSNH Environmental Grant Application Chrm. O'Brien reported that we are still waiting word of acceptance of the PSNH Environmental Grant Application grant application recently submitted by Mr. Howland for the development of a trail map, kiosk, signage and associated hardware in the Oak Ridge Town Forest.

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

Chrm. O'Brien reminded the Members that from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday October 22, 2011 the Conservation Commission will be hosting a Fall Foliage Hike in the Oak Ridge North area. The event will begin at the North parking lot of Oak Ridge.

ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer reported there was recently a river cleanup in several places along the Exeter River. She also reported that ERLAC is concerned about the proposed deck and septic at the property at 46 Tibbetts Road (Map 7 Lot 9) because they are going to be close to the Exeter River. This prompted a conversation with Mr. Knee and Alt. Miner each voicing the opinion that they do not necessarily share in ERLAC's concerns because the owner is looking to improve what is on the property.

BUDGET – 2012

The Members received and reviewed the draft of the 2012 Conservation Commission Budget which was last updated on September 21, 2011 to include the Department requests of \$1,492 and the Selectmen's recommendation and Budget Committee recommendation of \$824. \$824 is the amount of the 2011 Conservation Commission budget. There was a conversation relative to the dues line.

GRANTS

Mbr. deBeer reported that she has received notice of four \$10,000 grants awarded for land acquisition and there are more still outstanding.

Mbr. deBeer asked about a required signature letter for the Moose Plate grant. The document must be received by Thursday as the application deadline is Friday.

Mbr. deBeer said part of the requirement of the existing Moose Plate Grants that were awarded to Fremont is that any publications such as brochures, trail maps, news articles etc. needs to contain the Moose Plate logo and language. Mbr. deBeer said she thinks that the brochure on the Town website does not contain the required language. Mbr. Knee suggested taking the brochure off the web site until the signage can be added.

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Mbr. deBeer related that the Moose Plate grant for which she is currently applying calls for an outline relative to conservation public awareness and public conservation ethics, which in her opinion

the Town has not done. Mbr. Knee disagreed, stating that he feels the Conservation Commission accomplishes conservation awareness and ethics by sponsoring events including the Fall Foliage Hike, Snowshoe Hike, Owl Walk and other events. Alt. Miner pointed out that the Commission promoted awareness of the Town Forests by sponsoring the Hike & Seek contest even though there was not a lot of participation. She said that all events are well advertised and there is plenty of opportunity for public conservation awareness and ethics. Chrm. O'Brien agreed.

LAND ACQUISITION

Chrm. O'Brien announced that the Conservation Commission, with the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing September 29, 2011 to discuss acceptance and expenditure of monies to the Conservation Fund for the purchase of the 76-acre Robert and Richard Smith property located at Map 4 Lots Map 4 Lots 086, 088 and 089 to be used as conservation land, with potential easements. She said there were several interested members of the public in attendance and the comments were mostly positive.

Chrm. O'Brien suggested that since the all aspects of the purchase were discussed at the September 29, 2011 Public Hearing there is no need to keep the non-public Conservation Commission meeting minutes relative to the property sealed. The other Members agreed.

Chrm. O'Brien made the motion to unseal all of the sealed non-public meeting minutes regarding the acquisition of the Smith property. December 7, 2009, April 5, August 16, and October 4, 2010 and June 6, 2011.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Chrm. O'Brien said the purchase & sales agreement has been drafted and will be sent to Town Counsel John Ryan for his approval. Once he approves the agreement it will go to the Selectmen for their signatures, then it will go to Mr. Smith for his signature. She added that there are still some items left to complete including the title search and possibly opinion of title and that the anticipated closing date is March of 2012.

There was some further conversation relative to the purchase and sale of the property. Chrm. O'Brien reminded the Members that the contract with Mr. Smith says he will be reimbursed \$3,400 representing his half of the survey costs. This reimbursement will be done at the closing.

Mbr. deBeer has secured \$40,000 in grants. There was a conversation relative to purchase price and grants awarded and how they will be applied.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

At 8:00 pm Mbr. Knee made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Alt. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The next scheduled meeting is November 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc,
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary