



**Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of
May 5, 2014**

Present: Chairman Bill Knee, Member Pat deBeer, Alt. Leanne Miner, and Alt/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Also present: Dennis Howland.

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

On March 15, 2010 Chrm. Karcz designated Alternate Leanne Miner to fill the vacancy on the Conservation Commission until such time as the Selectmen have appointed someone to fill that vacancy (allowed by NH RSA 673:12, III). That appointment remains in effect.

MINUTES

Mbr. de Beer made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting as written. Alt. Miner seconded the motion with unanimous favorable vote.

TOWN FOREST

Trails:

Mr. Howland said the Kiosk at the Oak Ridge North was installed on May 3. It needs lexan for the window as well as a lock. There was a discussion relative to what kind of lock is needed, if any.

Mr. Howland reiterated his comments of his April 23, 2014 e-mail message relative to the Oak Ridge North trail system stating that in general, the trail system is in good shape and there is little to no trail maintenance required at this time. He noted the following:

- Area around post 8: Some brush and small limbs need to be cleared for about 25 feet on either side of the channel to provide a footpath around the beaver dam and some blazes need to be added, or otherwise mark the bypass, to make it easier for people to find it.
- Water crossing west of Post 3: This area remains manageable by walking across the beaver dam on the north side of the trail. It would be good to put in stepping stones or small bridge on the south side of the trail.
- Area at post 7: There is some evidence of ATV activity that have made a mess in a few places. There are bypasses cleared but not marked.

Approved June 2, 2014

- Tavern Road: Mud holes remain a deterrent to accessing the trail system. There is evidence of fresh beaver activity right near the parking lot and at the water crossing between posts 1 and 2. The makeshift bridge has deteriorated, and could use some repair.

Mr. Howland said he has contacted Voss Signs to get an idea of what could be used to remove the pink spray paint that someone sprayed on the Oak Ride South kiosk and they had no suggestions.

Mr. Howland said that most of the areas in Glen Oakes where the logging operation crossed the trails need to be raked out and some new blazes painted (perhaps some arrow directors) put up to redefine the trail paths. There was a conversation about the trails in general.

Mr. Howland left the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Glen Oakes Wildlife and Forest Management Plan:

The Commission received and reviewed a detailed Professional Work Agreement from Forester Charlie Moreno to update and amend the current Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan. The amendment is to include the Smith property, the recent Glen Oakes timber harvest, and the results of the 2011 Biothon. The agreement states that the location is the Glen Oakes Conservation Area—original parcel 312± acres, and the new Smith parcels of 65± additional acres; 377± acres total.

The agreement noted the following.

Project Task Description: Fieldwork, analysis, mapping, and report preparation.

Fieldwork on (new Smith parcels):

- a) Detailed field reconnaissance of new Smith parcels.
- b) Delineate forest types; assess in terms of forest structure and ecological attributes.
- c) Complete Forest Inventory – Statistical analysis of forest & wildlife resources.
- d) Assess timber potential, wildlife habitats, access, and management logistics.
- e) Mapping of surface water features, forest types, trails, stonewalls, and other physical features.

Management Plan Update:

Incorporate information for Smith parcels into overall plan for the entire tract, while updating the entire plan:

- a) Revise all maps to include Smith parcels.
- b) Change property acreages and dates as needed throughout management plan.
- c) Update reference information
- d) Update natural resource information
- e) Update Property Logistics section, including management compartments, plan implementation, forest access.
- f) Update Wildlife Resources section. Include Biothon results in listing of confirmed wildlife
- g) species.
- h) Update Forest Resources section—update/recalculate existing data (adjusting for forest growth and for recent timber harvest). Analyze, calculate and include results of statistical inventory of new parcels. Recalculate all tables and charts.

- i) Update silvicultural planning section to include recent harvest.
- j) Update Appendices to include Biothon results in species list. Also new Smith Lot vernal pool information if any.

Professional Service Fees:

Project cost: Approximately \$5,000 to \$7,500± (Five Thousand to Seventy-five Hundred Dollars).

Service Quotation and Conditions:

- I. Professional time to be billed at \$75/hour with 66 to 100± hour time budget.
- II. Project fee due upon as follows: Billing for project on 30± hour increments. Balance upon completion of the management plan update.
- III. Electronic PDF copy of Management Plan to be submitted. Management Plan hard copies available at \$30 each.

After careful review of the Professional Work Agreement by the Members Chrm. Knee signed the contract.

The Commission discussed funding the plan amendment and Chrm. Knee said it works for the Current Use Fund.

Gate:

Chrm. Knee said he spoke with the Deputy Fire Chief Joe Nichols relative to what kind of gate they would prefer on a gated access to Glen Oakes, or if the Fire Department would have any other suggestions. Mr. Nichols said that the gate being installed at the Beede Spaulding Conservation Area is preferable. They have one lock and one key. Severino trucking company can fabricate the gate and Chrm. Knee will find out the cost.

Oak Ridge: Chrm. Knee said when he drove into the parking area recently at the South end of Oak Ridge it did not seem very welcoming. He felt it needs to be made more attractive possibly with crushed stone, railroad ties or something to make it nicer looking and more inviting. There was a conversation relative to how to make the kiosk and parking areas more inviting. A “Welcome” sign was suggested.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received: Notice of a site visit scheduled by the ZBA at the Pitkin property at 9 Squire Road for 5:00 pm on May 14, 2014.

Mbr. deBeer reported:

- She attended the recently held DES Source Water Protection Workshop.
- She noticed the property at the corner of Tavern and Ridge has tree cutting activity. There was a conversation about the wetland on and near that property.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

Google spreadsheets of the Town held Conservation Easements:

The easements include:

3615/702	Conservation Easement Cornerstone Estates/Dakota Realty Trust 1-35-8, 1-35-9 and p/o 1-35	D-28735
3972/1691	Conservation Easement Tuck Woods 6-64-21, 6-64-22 and 6-64-23	D-30397
4247/1418	Conservation Easement Tuck Woods OS, OS2, OS3	D-31333
4342/1206	Conservation Restriction Deed Not to Further Subdivide Spruce Hill Map 6 Lot 50	D-31622
4408/1234	Conservation Restriction Deed Seacoast United Soccer Club p/o 20-1	D-31731
4435/1986	Conservation Easement Fremont Pizzeria p/o Tax Map 3 Lot 120	D-31624
4890/1139	Conservation Easement Scribner Estates Easement 13	D-31121

WORKING PLAN

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

- 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. *This is done.*
 - Get copies of each easement.
 - Generate a checklist for each easement.
- Prospective Oak Ridge Easement: *This is done.*
- Review the obligations for grants already awarded including.
 1. Land & Water Conservation Fund (set up for the acquisition of Oak Ridge)
 2. Moose Plate, Recreational Trails Program, PREP Transaction Grant
 3. Smith property: Davis, Fields Pond, Cricket and Wharton, Moose Plate and LCHIP, PREP.
- Glen Oakes Forest & Wildlife Management Plan - Review for updates.
- Oak Ridge Management Plan - Review for updates.
Mbr. de Beer said this is in the NRI of the Master Plan.
- Natural Resource Inventory – Review for recommendations for updates of information and maps.
- Earth Day event (s) for the current year.
- Biothon – discuss a possible event for the current year.
- Reorganization of the Conservation Commission.
- Budget for the following year.

- 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.

EVENTS

Previous event suggestions included:

- Birds & bats
- Edible plants
- Wildlife cover
- Sustainable agriculture
- A butterfly garden
- School program that would involve growing plants.
- A presentation on sustainable agriculture.
- Community garden

At 8:20 Mbr. deBeer made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

Next scheduled meeting: June 2, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Land Use AA/Recording Secretary

CC action item timeline.

January – Review obligations for grants already awarded.
February – Review Forest Management & Wildlife Plans: Oak Ridge & Glen Oakes.
March – Commission reorganization; events to be sponsored through the next year.
April –
May –
June-
July –
August – Budget review and approval for upcoming year
September – October: monitoring Town owned Conservation easements & reporting on same.
November – Review the NRI
December -