

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
6:30 pm
At the Freedom Town Hall
Minutes

1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:

FAC – Paul Elie, Gary Williams-Selectmen’s Rep., Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt

FCC – Megan Broderick, Jeff Nicoll, R.A. Oram, Michele Keenan, Sue Hoople,
Nancy Cristoferi

Dave George, Advisor - Scrub Oak Scramblers, is also present.

Susan Marks is absent.

R.A. Oram is the FCC rep to the FAC

Discussion re: recording of the meetings. Gary Williams spoke about the Right to Know law and that recordings are to be erased once the minutes are approved. Jeff made a motion that we do not introduce meeting recordings at present. Nancy seconded. APPROVED

2 Approval of April 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – Oram asked about line 64 – any movement on moving the Planning Board position to the FCC. This is pending. Line 159 – Michele made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 pm? Is this correct? yes

Line 39 – insert Road after Shawtown. Line 41 insert after Old Home Week 2 August 2025. Line 47 – last sentence Americorp Members will be attending insert two.

FAC – Paul made a motion to approve as amended, Gary seconded. APPROVED

FCC – Michele made a motion to approve, Sue seconded. APPROVED

FAC

3 Mission Statement and web page – Paul distributed a copy of the draft mission statement. Ron made a motion to accept the mission statement, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

- 4 SOS / FAC Agreement – Alexa took this as an action item, to DES and has distributed it to the appropriate office.
- 5 Trout Pond Trail and OHW Wagon Ride – with all the rain, they are roughly a week or two behind. They anticipate beginning June 1. The wagon ride will take place on 2 August. Wagons and horses were donated by Josh Battles. There will be 2 rides. The Old Home Week Committee will handle signups. Check the road to be sure it is accessible for the wagons.
- 6 FAC Checklist & Work Hours – Yvonne has a template. Information needs to be plugged in. Hours that are put into this will need to be kept track of for grants, etc. Michele asked if meeting hours apply to the volunteer hours.
- 7 Forest Boundary Blazing – Paul spoke to Barry today. Ron spent a morning with Barry in the forest. Paint is \$45 gallon plus shipping. 2 gallons will be ordered. It is Nelson Survey paint. One of the kiosk roofs was painted. Wednesday morning Camp Cody was in the forest, with 200 campers.
- 8 Student Work / Study Program – Oram spoke to this topic. Prospect Mountain High School students participated. They spent a couple of hours working on signs, then set up a mock FCC meeting at the Town Hall. This was a pilot program. Oram would like to go to Kennett and Kingswood to see if they would like to participate. A story about the work day will be in the Green Mountain Watershed quarterly publication. Michele suggests adding a photo to the Freedom column in the Conway Daily Sun. She will work with Paul on this.
- 9 Invoices – BH Keith 5/2/25 \$1087.50 – working in the forest, with TNC re: the burn. Jeff asked about the signed contract. There is a document for the burn somewhere also, Jeff will check on that as well as the contract for Barry. Yvonne made a motion to approve, Gary seconded. APPROVED
- 10 Grants –
Loon Preservation Committee will be at Calumet. Web site will be updated with mission statement. There is some old material that should be removed and/or updated. Gary made a motion to approve making changes, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

The accounts were updated several months ago. Nothing has been added since the annual update. What we have to work with is basically what is in the Town report.

Village Road by Nason Road – on the left, there is clearing being done in the wetlands. This will be covered later in the meeting.

Dave locked the gate at Hurd Road. There is one gate at the SOS U junction that needs a lock. Dave also needs a lock for Mountview. He suggests no parking signs for in front of the gates.

Jeff asked if the gate to Trout Pond will not be opened until the road is done. That is the plan.

11 Other Business / Adjourn - Yvonne made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm, Gary seconded. FAC portion of meeting is adjourned.

FCC

12 FAC/FCC Burn Contract Update – funding is in question, there is renewed hope. The final signature on the burn contract was never received by The Nature Conservancy.

13 Water Quality Monitoring Update / GMCG status – draft letter to Loon Lake Association was included in the packet, for consideration. Nancy asked if the Danforth information needs to be added. A motion to accept was made by Michele, seconded by Nancy. APPROVED

Green Mountain Conservation Group – impact of the Americorp funding being cut by the federal government. They will be keeping their (2) 10 month employees. They are looking for some help to fund it. Could we suggest to the Board of Selectmen that they make a contribution to the GMCG campaign? Discussion ensued. The Board feels that we should not do this. Jeff made a motion that we discussed the employment contribution to the Americorp employees - Green Mountain Americorp Bridge Campaign and we will not be contributing as the FCC. Michele seconded. APPROVED

14 Lake Host Update – Nancy gave a report. Two people have been hired. Saturdays and Sundays 9am – 3 pm. They will alternate locations. Both have done their training and are ready to go. Nancy knows someone who may be able to be a fill in person-on call. Megan will pick up materials that Michel Cloutier has from last year. NH Fish and Game would like to put

their trailer at the Pine River ramp in September. Nancy gave them approval to do so.

15 NH Lakes Congress- funds are available to send some individuals. June 5 in Concord, 10 am-4 pm. Oram will go. Sue may. Paul will check his calendar.

16 Applications for Review

16.1 Wabanaki Project Update – Jeff gave a summary of what has been happening. Jeff spoke with Brian (Zoning Officer) who was going on a site visit with the State. Brian said he would take the letter contents into consideration. From the site visit: Peter Conti at DES replied to the Conservation Commission, saying that he will report back to us once the formal report is done. DES has sent two requests for more information to the owner. One is for information about dock slips. The other is for details about decks, runoff control, square footage, etc. There have been a number of building permit applications submitted to the Town. No building permits will be issued until a stormwater plan is received and approved, per the Zoning Officer. A printout received indicates that there have been 9 approved on May 8. Anything above the 300' buffer was approved. No permits were issued for #19 and #6. No permits will be issued for any non-mobile structures. Planning Board voted application closed without prejudice. The FCC is waiting for the report from DES. Oram expressed concern about whether DES will address what comes off the rooves of the trailers. Jeff noted that many of the decks shown in the photos are impervious, solid surfaces. Oram would like to know the pitch from the Lake Road to the lake. Oram made a motion that the discussion on Wabanaki be tabled for tonight until the results come back from DES. Nancy seconded. APPROVED

16.2 Map33Lot14 Laspisa – a deck is being removed, a house is proposed. No tree cutting is indicated. Megan spoke about a nonconforming setback being made worse. That is a zoning issue. Sue spoke about impervious coverage of the lot. Megan notes that they should do a proper calculation as they are close to the 15%. It is unclear if the septic is already done. Oram notes that he does not see infiltration on the drip edges of the roof. Ask them to do the calculations of the lot coverage. Are there plans to use water bars to mitigate water running straight to the lake? Jeff will send a

letter to the Zoning Board and the applicant requesting impervious calculations, details on erosion control measures/water infiltration.

17 FCC Invoices

BH Keith 5/2/25 \$1087.50 – Michele made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

Ron Newbury – request to approve \$114.09 for boundary surveying paint. Oram made a motion to process for reimbursement, Michele seconded. APPROVED

18 Other business to come before the Commission – Berry Bay Assn. meeting invitation, 5/24 at 10 am at Freedom Town Hall. Megan will be speaking about water quality testing as a member of the FCC. Oram made a motion that she go as a representative of the FCC, Michele seconded. APPROVED
Roberta McCarthy spoke about the Berry Bay Assn. working closely with Effingham.

Nancy picked up our lead tackle collection supply for the Loons. Jeff spoke with Alan at the Transfer Station and got approval to set up the materials. Megan mentioned that the sign board they have on the outside of the building that was built by Ned Kucera, to have notices about water quality. A message about the collection could be placed on that.

Dredging of brook on Village Road/Nason Road – Jeff will send a message to the Zoning Officer that there is dredging happening on a Class IV stream with no silt fencing. It is on Map 3D.

Failure of septic system on Scarborough Road – ongoing for 3-4 years. Septic has not been replaced. The Town is waiting for a full time health officer.

19 Public Comment – Brian Taylor spoke about a bill re: cyanobacteria that has been defeated. The funding is doubtful. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources met at Camp Calumet last week. They are putting up another 100' of fencing. Tyler Jefferson is the new ranger. Folks at Fish & Game and Marine Control – there is a bill trying to get them to work together.

Roberta McCarthy spoke about the NH Lakes Conference on June 5.

Adjourn – Sue made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm, Oram seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12pm on 05/13/202

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary