

Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 15, 2025
6:30 pm
At the Freedom Town Hall
Draft Minutes

- 1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Jeff Nicoll. Present are:
FAC – Paul Elie, Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt, Gary Williams – Selectboard Rep,
FCC – Jeff Nicoll, Michele Keenan, R.A. Oram, Susan Marks, Megan Broderick, Susan Hoople, Nancy Cristoferi

Oram is the FCC rep to the FAC

- 2 Approval of June 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes - Nancy made a motion to approve, Michele seconded. APPROVED by FAC and FCC

FAC

- 3 Trout Pond Trail Repair Update – job is done. Final invoice has been received. Pictures have been taken. Road looks terrific. GW Brooks did some extra work down by the road up to the first landing. 1 culvert was eliminated. Stone dams on the sides look great. Grass is coming in. There is still some work that needs to be done on other sections. Some extra road grading was done at no cost.
- 4 FAC Web Page – has been updated. Still a work in progress.
- 5 Maintenance Checklist Update – Yvonne brought copies of the lists they have been working on. GPS coordinates need to be added. A section at the top of the page will contain special information about items to watch, etc. Jeff can add an overlay to the Town Forest Map to show GPS coordinates.
- 6 Boundary Blazing, Paint, Locks – Ron has been working on the two sections that Barry had flagged. One is around the Ford property. The other section is up by the Madison boundary. He recommends keeping the washout sign

up because there are still some rocks, etc. to watch out for. He anticipates completion of the marking of those sections within the month. Locks were ordered and keyed. Three of them were given to Dave George for installation. Two are installed, he needs a pin for one of the gates. Ron is authorized to open the Trout Pond gate tomorrow and install the pin at the bent gate. He will install a chain with a lock to chain the Trout Pond Road gate open. Paul will make the announcement of the opening, and have it put on the website.

Oram has put together a writeup on the work study program that was done. It has been dropped off at Green Mountain for editing and publication.

Dave George is unable to attend tonight but reports that he has put out a couple of the new locks. There has been an issue with fire rings on Calumet Trail. A "No Fires" sign will be put up. A letter to the camps is suggested. Paul will write the letter.

The wagon ride is on track. There is a concern about the boulders up at the top. A ride to check that out will take place this weekend. Both rides are full. They filled up in the first 24 hours.

We will have to look at funding for mowing, brush hogging and supplies. All of the income projections are going downhill, so we will have to think about that for the long run. The revenue that will be generated from the forest will not sustain the forest in the outyears. We need to look at establishing a Capital Reserve fund for the Forest. Maintenance needs to be done periodically, such as keeping the roads from growing in with saplings. For future maintenance, the monies that we have right now are not going to last long. Susan asked if there is any planting happening. Jeff recommends that the FAC make a motion, then send it to the FCC to move it forward. Oram made a motion that the FAC look at sources of income as an infusion for the maintenance of the forest, Ron seconded. APPROVED
Yvonne stated that she would like to look at a reforestation project in the future.

7 Invoices

Intervale Lock & Safe, 7.3.25, \$310.00 – Paul made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

GW Brooks, Request Trout Pond Trail Repairs, \$60,773.30 – Ron made a motion to approve, Gary seconded. APPROVED

Paul has a brand new sign stating “No Parking – Fire Lane”. They are seeking approval to install it. The FAC supports installation.

Paul requested a list of the Nature Walk sign locations. Jeff will get that information for him.

- 8 Other Business / Public Comment / Adjourn – Gary spoke about Trout Pond Trail – put up a sign regarding using 4-wheel drive to prevent damage to the new road.

Yvonne made a motion to adjourn the FAC portion of the meeting at 7:22 pm, Ron seconded. ADJOURNED

FCC

- 9 Aquatics Update – Megan spoke about the divers and what they have done. They were in Upper and Middle Danforth. They did hand pull and diving. DASH was not done this year. They pulled out 232 gallons of milfoil. They found a lot more than the State had indicated to them. Megan feels that we should investigate further upstream. There was one spot the State had identified under the docks at Danforth Bay Campground. The divers found very little there. Amy will be back in the latter part of August to determine if any supplemental diving is needed for the year.

The Lake Hosts have not expressed any issues with boaters this year.

Nancy made a motion to request that \$1500 be sent to the State for the Lake Host Program, Michele seconded. APPROVED

Invoice for diving - \$7561 – 7.15.25 for Twin State Expedited Dive Services – Megan made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

10 Applications for Review

10.1 ZBA: 6 Liguori Drive – The Zoning Officer declined this application, so it has to go before the ZBA. Jeff drafted some recommendations for discussion. A letter noting the concerns was also drafted. As a condition of

approval, the FCC recommends to the ZBA that there be follow up for items such as plantings. Nancy made a motion to send the letter as amended, Oram seconded. APPROVED

10.2 NHDES: 111 Pequawket Trail – Recommendations were discussed. Utilize the certified plant species list that the State provides. Michele made a motion to send the letter as written, Oram seconded. APPROVED

11 FCC Invoices

Intervale Lock & Safe, 7.3.25, \$310.00 – Oram made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

GW Brooks, Request - Trout Pond Trail Repairs, \$60,773.30. Nancy made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

NH Lakes for the Lake Host Program - \$1500 – Nancy made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

Twin State Expedited Dive Services - \$7561 dated 7.15.25 – Megan made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

12 FCC logo discussion – draft logos were distributed prior to the meeting. Suggestion of making the stream into a pond. Make the loon smaller in the conservation commission logo. Leave the FAC as a circle or something unlike a badge. Add some wildlife (deer). Oram would like to use the original logo with the trees on the handout for the wagon ride. For the FCC – downsize the loon. Use the circle shape. Insert a deer. Tweak the mountain to make it look like Mary's Mountain.

13 Other business to come before the Commission

14 Public Comment – Brian Taylor likes the idea of a database for approval with conditions followup is a great idea.

Sue Hoople spoke about the ongoing DES action with Wabanaki. She sent a file of information to Jeff, for him to consider sharing with the Board. She would like to consider modifying the letter that was previously sent to the

State and resend it. Jeff stated that this topic will need to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

15 Adjourn – Oram made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm, Megan seconded.
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary