

Freedom Town Forest
Land Use Proposal

Date submitted: ___/___/___

Name(s) of the group(s) or person(s) submitting proposal: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _(_____)_____

Proposal category (check all that apply):

- Public Access
- Land Alteration, Land Improvements, Land Maintenance
- Forestry Plan/Management
- Wetlands
- Wildlife Management
- Recreation
- Education

Other: _____

Is this a one-time event or an ongoing use? ___ One-Time Event ___ Ongoing Use

Date(s) when the Freedom Town Forest will be accessed: _____

Please provide a description of the proposed use (*):

(*) Please provide/attach any other forms of documentation to support your request, and be prepared to discuss your application when requested by the Forest Advisory Committee.

FAC
Town of Freedom
PO Box 227
33 Old Portland Rd
Freedom, NH 03836

Freedom Town Forest Land Use Proposal Process

Land use proposals are received by the Forest Advisory Committee (hereinafter “FAC”) for determination of recommendation to the Freedom Conservation Commission (hereinafter, “FCC”). A completed land use proposal application must be received at the Freedom Town Offices by the third Wednesday of the month in order for the applicant(s) to address the FAC at the next regularly scheduled FAC meeting. Once the land use proposal is on the agenda, the applicant(s) will be invited to address the FAC regarding the proposal. There is also a period for public comments at all regularly scheduled FAC meetings.

Depending upon the complexity of the land use request, the FAC may or may not require that further research or studies be performed. If further studies are required for the FAC to render a decision, the applicant may or may not be required to pay for such studies.

Review by the FAC should consider the following:

- Goals and objectives of Stewardship Plan and Easement
- Environmental Issues (re aquifer, wetlands, riparian zones, soils, plants/forest, wildlife habitat)
- Conflicts with other concurrent users
- Conflicts with forestry plan, forest restoration, etc.
- Conflicts with requirements/goals of grants or cost/share projects
- Necessity for maintenance, clean-up, repair of damage
- Safety/rescue/enforcement/liability issues for the town
- Any cost to the town – now or in the future
- Other use impacts

Review may well determine need for consultation with experts, such as:

- Forester, wildlife biologist, soil scientist, wetlands specialist
- Fire and rescue, public safety enforcement, legal counsel

After the proposal has been reviewed and discussed, the Committee will let the applicant know what additional information will be needed. Also, if necessary, the Committee may set-up a Public Hearing date for the purpose of soliciting further public comment, with no less than 14 days in advance notice provided to the public.

After receiving a completed land use application, hearing from the applicant at a regularly scheduled FAC meeting, and possibly holding a public hearing for additional public comments, the FAC will deliberate and shall vote to approve, approve with conditions or revisions, or disapprove the land use proposal. The vote by the FAC will be within 90 days of the initial hearing at which the applicant addressed the FAC regarding their completed land use proposal. After the FAC has voted on the proposal, the FAC chairperson may request each committee member to provide a written explanation of their decision within 48 hours of the vote. If required, those written explanations will be collected by the chairperson and will be forwarded to both the FCC and the applicant with 72 hours of the vote.

**Any questions about this process can be directed to the chair of the Forest Advisory Committee
office@townoffreedomnh.gov**

