

Public Meeting
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday October 21, 2025 - 6:30 pm at the Freedom Town Hall
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Megan Broderick.

1 Quorum Check, Roll Call FAC/FCC – Present are:

FAC – Ron Newbury, Paul Elie, Yvonne Hoyt

FCC – Nancy Cristoferi, Megan Broderick, R.A. Oram, Susan Marks, Sue Hoople
(7:09 pm)

Oram is the FCC Representative to the FAC

Dave George (Scrub Oak Scramblers) is also present. This is consultant for the
FAC – nonpaid.

Jim Guido, Gary Williams-Selectboard Rep., Jeff Nicoll are absent.

2 Approval of September 2025 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes

9/16/25

FAC – Paul made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

FCC – Megan made a motion to approve, Susan seconded. APPROVED

9/30/25

FAC – Yvonne made a motion to approve, Ron seconded. APPROVED

FCC – Megan made a motion to approve, Susan seconded. APPROVED

FAC

3 Annual Forest Inspection – spoke with Alexa – she will be here 10/31. Meet
in Barry’s office at 10 am. Will emphasize Trout Pond Road and the
mowing. The forester is writing his report. Paul is also writing one. A lot has
been accomplished this year. Trout Pond water will be tested next summer.

4 Forest Mowing Update – JP McVitty did this work, for \$450. The mowing is
done, and reports are that the work is good.

The Watershed News has an article about the Work Study Program for Prospect High School from Alton.

5 Forest Capital Reserve and Warrant Article – the language in the warrant article that talks about the funds being available for the ensuing year means that funds can be encumbered if they haven't been used by the end of the year. This is in lock step with the Forester's contract. A discussion about the capital reserve is tabled until Jeff is present. Oram has questions about establishing a reserve for the town forest, or if we need to look at another way of funding a capital reserve and call it something else.

6 Gates and Signs – have been a priority this year. 13 of the 14 gates have been repainted. The gate at Trout Pond Trail and Black Brook needs painting. No Fire signs have been installed. Yvonne is working on the checklist. The intent is to be more aggressive on the maintenance. Dave asked about No Parking signs at the gates. Oram stated that we have some Fire Lane signs available.

Dave spoke about a culvert on the air strip that was plugged solid. A resident went out and cleared it last week. The other one is still full, Dave will likely be draining it in the near future.

Yvonne made a motion to purchase and install Fire Lane and No Parking signs at all the gates. Paul seconded. APPROVED

7 FAC Invoices

JP McVitty, \$450.00 – 10/16/25 – Ron made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED

8 Other Business / Public Comment / Adjourn – Paul made a motion to adjourn the FAC portion of the meeting at 6:57 pm, Oram seconded. ADJOURNED

FCC

9 Aquatics Update – we heard back from DES regarding a second round of checking for milfoil. They did find some in Upper Danforth and recommended that we get it done. By the time we got to talk to the divers, they recommended we wait until next year, spring or early summer. We continue to talk to Green Mountain about their proposals for next year.

10 FCC Budget and Encumbrances – activity through the end of September was distributed in the packet. This will now be available monthly. Clarification is needed regarding the forester salary and encumbering funds. Jeff has drafted a motion template which we will review in December. Oram spoke about the line in the budget for the “weed cops” and that they do not have to come to the FCC for money. The aquatic invasive species did have their own money, but it was a warrant article, not a budget line. Oram is concerned that there needs to be a differentiation between aquatics, forest and conservation. Megan clarified that there should be 3 separate buckets when the budget is made. Paul spoke about encumbering monies for the TNC burn also.

11 The Public Officials meeting – this is an announcement about the October 27 meeting at Town Hall for budget discussion, accomplishments, etc. Jeff said he was going, Megan plans to attend as well. Department heads can review current accomplishments and 2026 projected budgets.

12 Applications for Review

There were a couple of applications in the packets. These are in the “No Action Required” folder online, as we addressed them in our prior meeting.

12.1 Wabanaki Campground – Assessor update – In the packet there is a writeup from Ossipee Lake Alliance regarding the recent news and what the State had agreed upon. Sue distributed a note asking for additional work from the FCC based on what the town assessor has come up with.

Jeanne and Doug Greenland from Mountview are here as members of the public. Oram spoke about every meeting for a year having had an issue regarding Wabanaki. The State came and took 80+ photographs, but to his knowledge, nothing has been done about the issues that were photographed. DES has done nothing about the erosion on the beach.

There was a discrepancy about pervious and impervious. The latest desire to put moorings in was approved, but the docks hadn’t been approved yet. Our request to DES was that they pause and collaborate. Moorings and docks have received approval, but now has to go to the executive council. Oram makes the point that this has to be frustrating to everyone who has concerns about the future of the lake. For over a year this has been worked

on, but where are we today? All of the issues exist and we have nothing to show for as to what has been done. At some point, a Board that has the authority, whether code officer, state of NH or the town itself, needs to be bringing this into compliance. As a 20-year member of this Board, Oram is disgusted with the inaction of the State of NH and this town. Susan feels that many boards and individuals have worked on this, gathering info, etc. but are frustrated with the answers from the Selectboard, that it is at the lawyers. Oram is concerned about when the cycle is going to stop. Nancy would like to know if when the lawyers are done with this, will we be able to have it in time to opine on it? Megan noted that there are no applications on the table at this time. Sue spoke about the recap she sent out. She feels that the overburdening of a septic in the shorefront is a concern of the FCC. The construction plan was clearly for 6 1-bedroom hutnicks. It is now clear that at least one of the hutnicks has two bedrooms. There is concern that the Selectmen and attorneys are only talking about penalties and fine, and not doing anything about remediation.

Jeanne spoke about the use of the word hutnick, and that it is very common.

13 FCC Invoices

JP McVitty, 10/16/25 – mowing, \$450.00 – Megan made a motion to approve, Nancy seconded. APPROVED

Green Mountain Conservation Group – water testing – Invoice #1926, 9/16/25 in the amount of \$6111.00 – Nancy made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

NH Assn of Conservation Commission – annual dues – Invoice #3336, 10/10/25 in the amount of \$250.00 . Nancy made a motion to approve, Oram seconded. APPROVED

The annual meeting cost is \$60 for members if you make your reservation before October 24. There is money remaining in the training budget to send three people. Paul, Oram are interested in attending.

14 Other business to come before the Commission – we received a letter from Blair Foltz about the Ossipee River Watershed. The letter asked us to write to the Effingham Town Officials to be sure that they do their jobs. The FCC does not feel that it will do this.

15 Public Comment – no public present at this time

16 Adjourn – Megan made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm, Oram seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary