Public Meeting of the
Freedom Conservation Commission and Forest Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm
At the Freedom Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Jeff Nicoll.

1 Quorum Check, Roll Call – FAC/FCC
FAC – Paul Elie, James Guido – Planning Board Rep., Ron Newbury, Yvonne Hoyt – A quorum is present
FCC – Jeff Nicoll, R. A. Oram, Susan Hoople-Alternate – quorum **not** present.

Oram is the FCC rep. to the FAC.

Gary Williams – Selectboard Rep., Megan Broderick, Nancy Cristoferi, Susan Marks, Rachel Plescha, Zack Rogers, Dave George-Scrub Oak Scramblers are absent.

2 Approval of July 21, 2026 FAC/FCC Meeting Minutes – FAC approval – Yvonne made a motion to approve, Ron seconded. APPROVED 5-0-0

FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

3 FAC – Forest Projects and Information

– Completed: Old Home Week Forest Wagon Ride (July 25) and Access Trail #1 – five trees cut-the ride went well. Both rides were packed. Access Trail 1 – SOS had cut 5 trees that we had noted needing to be cut in order for fire equipment to get down there. More work needs to be done.

– Forest cameras – FPD / FFD / FAC coordination and signage – fire pits have been found in the forest (gate 1 area, southern end of the air strip). The Police and the Fire Chief want to install the cameras, violators will be fined $250. The Forester does not want more signs, nor does the FAC. Dave George – Scrub Oak Scramblers is also involved in this camera initiative.

– Access Trail #1 – fill ruts with gravel. Stumps need to be removed/ground down. Oram's truck needed more room – more trees will need to be cut.

– Trout Pond water testing performed (GMCG) – Rowboat loaned by Rob Cunio. 80% of the testing will be completed at Green Mountain Conservation, the other 20% will be sent to UNH.

– Boundary line flagging & blazing (Dube / Ford) – Ron notes that this will get started once it cools down a little.

– Rake water bars – Trout Pond Trail and Mary's Mountain Footpath – Ron will work on this. Paul suggested that Zack might be available to assist with this.

Girl Scout project from a few years back – one last item was a small bench to be installed at Trout Pond.

4 Freedom Town Forest – 2026 NH Fish & Game Permit to Bait Wildlife – The date of closure for baiting bears was the 3rd of this month. Deer is open until October. Paul was told to scratch out the bear portion of the application, leave the deer on as there is still time left to do that. Jeff suggests that the easement holder should be consulted. Discussion ensued. An email needs to be sent to the easement holder to find out what their position is on this issue. James made a motion to deny the application, Ron seconded. Paul feels that we should step back and see if we are missing information on this topic. Oram recommends tabling this issue. Vote on James' motion – 3-1-1. Elie no, Oram abstain.

Yvonne made a motion to research this topic further, James seconded. Jeff recommends checking with the easement holder. FAC will forward whatever they find on this to the FCC. 5-0-0

– Applicant: Zachary R. Smith – permit to bait wildlife on Town Forest land (NH Fish & Game, Rev. 11/2025) - denied by FAC, will be forwarded to FCC.

– Discussion of FAC position and recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as landowner – see above

5 FAC Invoices

– B.H. Keith Associates, Invoice #01-4071, 8/3/26 – $712.50 (July 1–31, 2026: forest road erosion control inspections, boundary line location, forest fire protection) - James made a motion to approve, Yvonne seconded. APPROVED 5-0-0

6 Public Comment / Other Business - James would like clarification about FAC and FCC – if the FAC makes a decision, why does it go to the FCC? Oram explained that the State easement requires a Forest Advisory Committee – in this town they chose to use the FAC under the FCC option.

Paul noted that this Friday a Ben Lewis from Fish and Game would like to come out to visit the forest. Time is tbd. Paul will email details as they are confirmed.

7 Adjourn FAC – Yvonne made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm, James seconded. The FAC portion of this meeting was adjourned.

FREEDOM CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FCC) – NO FCC BUSINESS WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A QUORUM IS NOT PRESENT.

8 Applications for Review – not discussed

8.1 407 Huckins Road – NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit (Tax Map 29, Lot 31)

– Applicant: Richard C. & Dawn T. Stott; NHDES File No. 2026-02042 (received 8/4/26; administratively complete 8/5/26)

9 Aquatics Update – not discussed

– NHDES August 6, 2026 survey of the Danforth Ponds

– Milfoil located on the western side of Leavitt Bay

– Cyanobacteria – Middle Danforth Pond reports of 7/24/26 and 8/6/26

10 FCC Invoices – not voted on

– B.H. Keith Associates, Invoice #01-4071, $712.50

– SOLitude Lake Management, Invoice PSI277181, $9860.00

11 Camp Robin Hood – dry hydrant project; NHDES permitting inquiry referred to the Commission

12 Other Business to Come Before the Commission

13 Public Comment

14 Adjourn FCC – meeting was not held as a quorum was not present.

Note: Deadline for agenda items for this meeting closed at 12:00 pm on August 11, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary