Freeport Conservation Commission

Minutes for December 12, 2022

6:30pm – Freeport Community Center

Members in Attendance: Matt McLaughlin, Margaret Gerber, Ben Shepard, Ryan Burke, John Stroud, Catherine Carroll, Anna Cudmore

Members not in Attendance: None

Others in Attendance: Lucy Birkett, Dan Piltch (Freeport Town Council)

1. Approve minutes from November meeting
   1. John Stroud made motion to approve
   2. Matt McLaughlin seconded the motion
   3. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Review of Hedgehog Management Plan
   1. Commission discussed the draft Management Plan shared by Margaret Gerber
      1. Members were provided the draft Plan on 12/9/2022 for review prior to the meeting
   2. Ben Shepard made a motion to approve the draft Management Plan with edits to be incorporated before the end of the month
      1. John Stroud seconded the motion
      2. Draft Plan approved unanimously
   3. Dan Piltch requested some of the Commission members attend the next Town Council meeting on Tuesday 12/20/2022 at 6:00pm to answer any questions about the Plan
      1. Dan Piltch thought a good idea was to present a 2-3 slide PowerPoint about the Plan
         1. Margaret Gerber can develop this
            1. Ben Shepard can assist
         2. Management Plan should be provided to the Town by Thursday 12/15/2022 to include in the Town Council materials for the 12/20/2022 meeting
         3. Public hearing would need to occur by the Town Council, likely in January, then be voted on whether to accept the Plan or not.
3. Budget Update
   1. No update
4. Property updates
   1. Florida Lake
      1. Ben Shepard spread out the last of the wood chips provided by the Town earlier this year
      2. Ben Shepard has been having issues with beavers building a dam under an orange trail bridge causing flooding that blocks the orange trail itself
         1. Ben Shepard has had to clear out a makeshift beaver deceiver for the bridge a few times to ensure the lake drains after storm events so the flooding is contained
         2. Ben Shepard plans to complete the beaver deceiver in 2023 to permanently address the beaver problem
            1. All required materials on site
      3. In November, Ben Shepard replaced three decayed bridges
      4. Lucy Birkett expressed interest in the plants and invasive species at Florida Lake
   2. Quarry Woods
      1. John Stroud did some weed whacking
      2. John Stroud thinks the existing bog bridges have only a few years of life left in them
      3. There are three blow downs that need to be cleared
         1. Two of these trails are on the proposed quarry loop trail
         2. Anna Cudmore can address the blow downs
   3. Hidden Pond
      1. No significant updates
5. Adjourn
   1. Ben Shepard made a motion to adjourn
      1. Matt McLaughlin seconded the motion
      2. Meeting adjourned unanimously

Next meeting: January 10, 2023