

## Freeport Conservation Commission

Date: 2-9-2021

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: Ben Shepard, Ryan Burke, Matt McLaughlin, Mark Morrissey, Catherine Carroll, John Stroud

Absent: Anna Cudmore

1. Meeting held via Zoom.
2. Approve minutes from January Meeting,
  - a. Ben Shepard made motion to approve,
  - b. Catherine Carroll seconded,
  - c. Approved unanimously.
3. Property updates
  - a. Hedgehog
    - i. Abutter that lives on the Dump Road
      1. Wants to give a gift to the property,
      2. They paid some landscapers come in to do some chipping and cleanup around an old foundation on the property,
        - a. Ryan Burke reviewed this ahead of time and suggested to the Town that they approve the work.
    - ii. Observations of vehicular access,
      1. Ben Shepard made an observation of a truck accessing the property,
      2. Ryan Burke can investigate who the vehicle belongs to,
        - a. A photo was taken of the vehicle with its license plate.
  - b. Soule Park
    - i. No updates for now.
  - c. Hidden Pond
    - i. Some ice skating has been occurring on the pond,
    - ii. Catherine Carroll has a suggestion about a tree on the trail that needs some trimming,
    - iii. The Town is chipping material that could be used at Hidden Pond,
      1. Ryan Burke to reach out to Earl Gibson about this,
      2. Ben Shepard can stake a spot out to dump the chips.
  - d. Quarry Woods
    - i. John Stroud has staked out a possible parking lot location at Lower Mast Landing Road,
      1. Also staked some trees in the way, some of which are dead or leaning.
  - e. Florida Lake
    - i. Ben Shepard made some management plan updates,
      1. John Stroud made some comments on the document, and Ben incorporated some changes,
      2. Ben Shepard to reach out to Mike Stumbo to get some missing info for the document,
      3. Does an Open Space Plan still exist?
        - a. Ben Shepard to reach to the Town Planner about this.

4. Hunting,
    - a. Idea of using shotguns and bow hunting only because of their limited range,
      - i. Leave use of rifles out of the allowed uses for Florida Lake.
  5. Ryan Burke made motion to approve the management plan, Catherine Carroll seconded,
    - a. Plan approved unanimously pending final revisions to the document that Ben Shepard will make.
4. Hedgehog Burl Discussion
  - a. Ryan Burke received an email from a user of Hedgehog Mountain to cut down a tree with a big burl,
    - i. They want to use the tree to make furniture,
    - ii. Ryan Burke to see if they can identify the tree they want to harvest,
      1. Perhaps see the tree during the March meeting on site,
      2. Ryan Burke also will ask the Town about this situation,
      3. John Stroud made motion to table,
        - a. Ryan Burke seconded,
        - b. Approved unanimously.
5. Ordinance/Management plan follow up discussion
  - a. Ben Shepard and John Stroud reviewed the ordinance and made mark ups,
  - b. Next steps,
    - i. Combine markups in one document,
    - ii. Review markups with Dan Piltch then present the ordinance to the Council,
    - iii. Ryan Burke and John Stroud can take the lead on these items.
6. Town Council Meeting in March
  - a. Will be held via Zoom,
  - b. March 23 at 6pm,
  - c. Items to discuss,
    - i. Dog park,
    - ii. Plan for 2021-2022,
    - iii. Activities completed in 2020-2021,
    - iv. Ordinance,
    - v. Florida Lake Management Plan.
7. Miscellaneous
  - a. Review of a work plan for the properties to focus any 2021 activities and budget
    - i. This will be tabled for now until Zoom can be enabled for screen sharing to review a Google Earth file Ben Shepard made.
8. Handicap accessibility to our properties,
  - a. This will be tabled for now until Zoom can be enabled for screen sharing to review a Google Earth file Ben Shepard made,
  - b. Ben Shepard to share Google Earth file ahead of next meeting.
9. Adjourn
  - a. John Stroud made motion to adjourn,
  - b. Catherine Carroll seconded,
  - c. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting: Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am at Hedgehog Mountain