Freeport Conservation Commission

Minutes for November 8, 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: Carrie Kenne (Freeport Conservation Trust), Ed Brainard

1. Approve minutes from September meeting
   1. John Stroud made motion to approve
   2. Margaret Gerber seconded motion
   3. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Nemba/Hedgehog update
   1. Margaret Gerber emailed in October to the Commission information about Hedgehog
      1. Soils data
      2. Topography
      3. Rare species
   2. Margaret Gerber and Ryan Burke received three (3) letters from the public expressing concerns about either developing mountain bike trails at Hedgehog or concerns about placing trails on the summit
   3. Discussed how to define the “Summit Area” of Hedgehog
      1. Perhaps define an elevation based on the topography data that at the point and above is the “Summit Area.”
   4. At the next meeting in December for the Conservation Commission, there will be a draft Management Plan for review
      1. “Summit Area” will be defined in the draft Management Plan
   5. Ryan Burke talked to Cathy Hazelton from the Gorham Recreation Department
      1. A Weeks Road property which was part of a quarry was developed by NEMBA for mountain bike trails
      2. The property has been expanded and sees a lot of use
      3. There were some pain points with parking and bathrooms on site that have not been addressed
      4. Property is overused
3. Officer elections
   1. Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary
   2. Chair
      1. Catherine Carroll made motion to have Ryan Burke stay as Chair
      2. John Stroud seconded motion
      3. Motion approved unanimously
   3. Treasurer
      1. Catherine Carroll made motion to have Anna Cudmore stay as Treasurer
      2. John Stroud seconded motion
      3. Motion approved unanimously
   4. Secretary
      1. Ryan Burke made motion to have Ben Shepard stay as Secretary
      2. John Stroud seconded motion
      3. Motion approved unanimously
4. Budget Update
   1. Ben Shepard made motion via email in October to get $500 to build a beaver deceiver for Florida Lake using materials to be bought from Lowes in Brunswick
      1. The beavers have been flooding the property with building a beaver dam under an orange trail bridge
      2. The flooding has made parts of the orange trial impassable
      3. Ben Shepard put in an interim beaver deceiver last week to allow the lake to drain
         1. Ben Shepard spent $69.58 at Home Depot to buy these materials before the Lowes materials were ready
            1. Ben Shepard made motion to get reimbursed for this
            2. John Stroud seconded motion
            3. Motion approved unanimously
5. Property updates
   1. Hedgehog Mountain
      1. Need to find someone to make the high schooler’s proposed new entrance sign design
      2. Ryan Burke reached out to the Town to ask about suggested sign making vendors
      3. Margaret Gerber and Carrie Keene know of other sign vendors
   2. Florida Lake
      1. Work day held in October
         1. Ben Shepard, Catherine Carroll and three other members of the public attended
            1. The group spread wood chips and addressed flooding from the beavers
6. Miscellaneous
   1. Carrie Keene attended an accessibility workshop
      1. Freeport Conservation Trust thinking about properties that could be made more accessible in Freeport
   2. Margaret Gerber through the Hedgehog Mountain work has received feedback from one member of the public that it’s hard for the public to follow Conservation Commission business
      1. Conservation Commission minutes haven’t been making it onto the Town Website
         1. Several brochures Ben Shepard made of the properties have never made it onto the Town Website
         2. Carrie Keene trying to work with the Town to fix up the Freeport Outdoors website
      2. Margaret Gerber to put a poster up at the Hedgehog Mountain in the kiosk with a Gmail to obtain gather feedback and questions about Hedgehog Mountain business
7. Adjourn
   1. Ben Shepard made a motion to adjourn
   2. Matt McLaughlin seconded motion
   3. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: December 13, 2022