Freeport Conservation Commission

Minutes for November 14, 2023

6:30pm – Freeport Community Center

Members in Attendance: Margaret Gerber, Ben Shepard, Ryan Burke, Matt McLaughlin

Other in Attendance: Carrie Kinne (Freeport Conservation Trust (FCT)), Barbara Duffin (Complete Streets Committee), Guy Quattrucci

Members not in Attendance: Catherine Carroll, Danica Rosenthal

1. Approve minutes from September meeting
   1. Ben Shepard put forward a motion to approve
   2. Margaret Gerber seconded the motion
   3. Motion approved unanimously
2. Barbara Duffin gave a presentation from the Complete Streets Committee
   1. Discussed Connect Freeport Task Force
      1. They designed a trail loop for Freeport using the new Exit 20 and 22 overpasses
      2. Includes the loop going by Hedgehog Mountain
   2. Carrie Keene proposed a Hedgehog focus group consisting of members from:
      1. FCT
      2. Conservation Commission
      3. Complete Streets Committee
      4. Town Officials
      5. Ben Shepard stressed other stakeholders that need to be involved
         1. Pine Tree Academy
         2. Hunter Road Committee
   3. Proposed pump track might not be on Hedgehog property, but on Transfer Station or Hunter Road Athletic Field property
3. Guy Quattrucci asked about Soule Park
   1. Town has renewed lease with the French School
   2. What is the status of the plantings that were taken down by the French School?
      1. No movement to re-plant when the lease was renewed
   3. Town didn’t approach the Commission when the lease was renewed
4. Officer Election
   1. Chair
      1. Matt McLaughlin made a motion for Ryan Burke to be the Chair
      2. Ben Shepard made a second
      3. Motion unanimously approved
   2. Treasurer
      1. Ryan Burke made a motion for Matt McLaughlin to be the Treasurer
      2. Ben Shepard made a second
      3. Motion unanimously approved
   3. Secretary
      1. Ryan Burke made a motion for Ben Shepard to be the Secretary
      2. Margaret Gerber made a second
      3. Motion unanimously approved
5. Budget Update
   1. No updates
6. Commission member update/introduction to Danica
   1. Danica Rosenthal is a new member to the Commission
7. Hedgehog landslide
   1. Ben Shepard found a landslide that is causing flooding on the Keith Cutoff Trail
   2. Ben Shepard suggested a longer bridge can mitigate the flooding issue
      1. Margaret Gerber believes MDEP permitting may need to be revised if we do this
8. Property updates
   1. Hidden Pond
      1. Matt McLaughlin put down 1/3 of the wood chips there
   2. Florida Lake
      1. Orange trail re-routing
         1. Last re-routing opened by Baker Road
      2. Beaver update
         1. Flooding under control at the moment
9. Miscellaneous
   1. 2024 MCC update
      1. Ben Shepard reached out to MCC and is waiting to hear back this week on if MCC will work in Freeport in 2024
      2. $18k funds allocated can be used for all of 2024
   2. FCT developing report on establishing accessible trails in Freeport
      1. Calderwood being looked at for a parking lot
      2. Winslow Park looks to have good opportunity to have an accessible trail
   3. Jonathan Dawson proposed a workday on December 7 on a Conservation Commission property
      1. 5-11 people typically show up to these types of monthly events
      2. No one could think of a property that needs light maintenance
   4. Ryan Burke received a call from the Town that someone walking at Hedgehog reported Asian Jumping Worms, which is an invasive species
10. Adjourn
    1. Matt McLaughlin made motion
    2. Ben Shepard seconded
    3. Approved unanimously

Next meetings:

December 12 at 6:30pm, at Freeport Community Center