Freeport Conservation Commission

Minutes for September 13, 2022

6:30pm – Freeport Community Center

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

Members not in Attendance: Anna Cudmore

Others in Attendance: Carrie Kenne (Freeport Conservation Trust), John Lowe

1. Approve minutes from July meeting
   1. John Stroud suggested to change the following:
      1. Ben Shepard was *bit bad* by a runaway dog at Florida Lake while the was working there in June
         1. Replace *bit bad* with *bitten*
      2. John Stroud made motion to approve the minutes, amended
         1. Matt McLaughlin made a second
         2. Minutes approved unanimously
2. John Lowe talked about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access
   1. Suggested at Florida Lake to have part of the orange trail from the Route 125 parking to the Lake to be re-graded to be more flat
   2. Carrie Kenne said Tidebrook and Calderwood are properties the Freeport Conservation Trust (FCT) wants to make more handicap accessible
      1. Carrie Kenne meeting with Sally Walsh about this
   3. FCT looking at State funding for the Town and FCT to fix up some properties for better access
   4. Ben Shepard has a desire to get the orange trail from Route 125 parking to the Lake to be re-graded for the 2023-2024 budget
      1. Have one paved parking spot for handicap parking
3. NEMBA Meeting Recap
   1. Carrie Kenne, Margaret Gerber and Ryan Burke met with NEMBA last Thursday, September 8
   2. NEMBA needs at least a Maine Department of Environmental Protection Permit by Rule for their proposed mountain bike trail work
   3. Margaret Gerber suggests the Conservation Commission designate an official area at Hedgehog Mountain as being the “Summit” and where mountain bike trails shouldn’t be located
      1. In October with the work so far on the Management Plan, will likely have data in hand to make an educated decision
   4. In the spring and summer, two botanists went to Hedgehog and looked at the summit
      1. A lot of information on vegetation has been gathered
         1. A geologist has been engaged to review the current conditions at Hedgehog
         2. Carrie Kenne to discuss with the Historical Society about historic uses of Hedgehog Mountain
4. Florida Lake Dog Walker Update
   1. Ben Shepard encountered at Florida Lake in early September the dog walker at Florida Lake that has generated complaints due to having 8-12 dogs at Florida Lake off leach and not under voice control
      1. Ben Shepard discussed with the dog walker the Florida Lake and Town rules about dogs either being on leash or under voice control
      2. Ben Shepard sent an email to Ryan Burke and Peter Joseph afterwards to update them on this discussion with the Dog Walker
5. Budget Update
   1. Conservation Commission was provided for 2022-2023 about $8,500
6. Property updates
   1. Florida Lake
      1. Ben Shepard has done the following at Florida Lake
         1. Spread Town provided wood chips on trails
         2. Cleared a blown in tree from the Blue Trail
      2. Ben Shepard to reach out to Paul Seymour to mow Florida Lake
      3. Ben Shepard to arrange a work day on October 22
   2. Quarry Woods
      1. Conservation Commission replaced three bridges and weed wacked some trails on August 27
         1. John Stroud to finish soon weed wacking trails and to review the trails anonymously added to the area around the quarry
      2. Parking lot
         1. The FCT Walch Property cost about $25k for a parking lot
7. Adjourn
   1. Ben Shepard made motion to adjourn
   2. John Stroud made a second
   3. Adjourn approved unanimously

Next meeting: October 11, 2022