Freeport Conservation Commission

Date: 4-12-2022

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Freeport Community Services

Attendees: Ben Shepard, Ryan Burke, Dan Piltch, John Stroud, Matt McLaughlin, Catherine Carroll, Anna Cudmore, Tawni Whitney, Jake Daniele

Absent: Margaret Gerber

1. Approve minutes from March 8 and March 31 meetings
   1. Ryan Burke made motion to approve
   2. Anna Cudmore seconded
   3. Approved unanimously
2. NEMBA follow up
   1. Town Council is receptive of NEMBA’s idea to put mountain bike trails at Hedgehog Mountain, but wants vetting by Conservation Commission
      1. Dan Piltch mentioned a workshop with the Town Council, NEMBA and the Conservation Commission to review the NEMBA proposal for mountain bike trails
         1. This would be an opportunity to get public input
      2. May 10 and June 14 are possible dates
   2. Discussed that a NEMBA workshop would be an input to revise the Hedgehog Mountain Management Plan which is targeted to be revised by the end of the year
   3. How to advertise for the workshop
      1. Poster at Hedgehog Mountain entrance
      2. Town newsletter
      3. Freeport Conservation Trust
   4. Margaret Gerber via an email has provided an update that she lined up several experts she knows to contribute to the revised Management Plan
   5. Ben Shepard had drafted a counter proposal to NEMBA’s proposal, but this has not been fully vetted by the Conservation Commission
   6. Ben Shepard made motion
      1. To share with NEMBA the counter proposal
      2. Participate in a May 10 workshop hosted by the Town Council with NEMBA and the public about Hedgehog Mountain
      3. No second, motion failed
   7. John Stroud made motion to review Ben Shepard’s counter proposal to NEMBA by end of day April 19,
      1. Ben Shepard seconded
      2. Members voting for the motion:
         1. Anna Cudmore, John Stroud, Ryan Burke, Ben Shepard, Matt McLaughlin
      3. Members voting against the motion:
         1. Catherine Carroll
   8. June 14 is the target date for the Workshop hosted by the Town Council to discuss Hedgehog Mountain
3. Council workshop follow up
   1. Most of what was discussed with the Town Council concerned the NEMBA proposal at Hedgehog Mountain
4. Budget discussion
   1. Current status
      1. Contracted services (mowing): $750
      2. Public education: $2,500
         1. Perhaps needed for the Hedgehog Management Plan work
      3. Supplies: $819
   2. Order in for wood from Maschino’s
      1. 2-3 week lead time
         1. $672
         2. Will be delivered to Baker Road entrance to Florida Lake
            1. Seemed to be the most secure location
      2. Need to put in order for hardware from Lowes
         1. Ben Shepard to get remainder of hardware from Freeport Hardware
5. Property updates
   1. Hidden Pond
      1. Spillway broke through, pond water level lowered by 3 feet
      2. A beaver is building a dam there and the pond water level is rebounding
   2. Quarry Woods
      1. Dan Piltch to check with Adam Bliss about next steps to build a parking lot at the Lower Mast Landing Road entrance
   3. Florida Lake
      1. New Florida Lake sign just showed up at the Route 125 entrance
         1. Don’t know who installed the sign, but it looks nice
      2. Request in for a signpost and wood chips from Earl Gibson (Public Works) for the Baker Road entrance
      3. Florida Lake management plan post online
         1. Needs to be posted online at Town website
   4. Hedgehog
      1. Matt McLaughlin hiked some of the property and noticed some high stream crossings and decayed water bars
      2. New sign at the end of Transfer Station Road
         1. Toner family has $1800 for the sign
         2. Will engage a student at Freeport High School to design the sign
            1. Might be a competition among students for a winning sign
6. Adjourn
   1. Catherine Carroll made motion to adjourn
      1. Ben Shepard seconded
      2. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: May 10, 2022