Freeport Conservation Commission

Minutes for February 8, 2022

6:30pm – Freeport Community Center

Attendees: Catherine Carroll, John Stroud, Margaret Gerber, Ryan Buke, Anna Cudmore, Matt McLaughlin, Carrie Kinne

Absent: Mark Morrissey, Ben Shepard

1. Approve minutes from December meeting
   1. John Stroud made motion to approve the minutes
      1. Ryan Burke seconded
      2. Minutes approved unanimously
2. NEMBA Meeting
   1. Ryan Burke met with Tawni Whitney and Peter Joseph on 2/7/22. Quick meeting. NEMBA looking for commission representatives to work with them on trail design.
   2. Ryan Burke made motion to for Margaret Gerber and Ryan Burke to be the liasons to work with NEMBA re: trail design.
      1. John Stroud seconded
      2. Approved unanimously
3. Budget update
   1. Budget remaining for FY 21-22. Fiscal year runs 7/1-6/30. $750 mowing, $2500 public education, $969.76 supplies. Total of $4219.75
   2. Motion to approve $150 for supplies needed at Florida Lake made by John Stroud. Seconded by Catherine Carroll.
      1. Approved unanimously
   3. Approximately $820 left in supply budget. Motion made by Matt McLaughlin to use remaining supply budget to buy wood needed for bridges etc. Quarry Woods needs new bridges.
      1. Catherine Carroll seconded
      2. Approved unanimously
4. Signage. Carrie Kinne brought up the issue of trail signage. FCT is going to update their signage on their trails. Looking into wood vs metal for signage, getting pricing on both. Suggested we could use similar design, but change the color/logo. Margaret Gerber volunteered to work with FCT on sign development
5. Property updates
   1. Hedgehog
      1. Ryan Burke will follow up with donor Muriel Littlefield regarding new sign out front. May want to incorporate with new trail sign design.
   2. Florida Lake
      1. Ben Shepard staged materials for 6 bridges. Commission passed approval for remaining materials needed.
   3. Soule Park
      1. No updates
   4. Hidden Pond
      1. Ben Shepard blazed trail on path to back of property.
   5. Quarry Woods
      1. John Stroud still wants to work on parking situation.
      2. John Stroud wants to explore trail around the quarry
      3. John Stroud stresses that new bridges needed
6. Miscellaneous other topics
   1. Discussion regarding management plans. The only management plan approved by town is Hedgehog Mountain, as that is the only property mentioned in the ordinance granting commission authority. Therefore all other management plans do not get council approval. Ordinance needs to be updated to get all property management plans to the town council
   2. Trail disability access. There is a rating system available. Efforts will be made to rate our trails for the public and posted at kiosks and town website.
   3. Climate Action Now discussion. Margaret Gerber attended many of the zoom calls. Climate change and effects on Freeport discussed at length
   4. Freeport Design Week. Carrie Kinne attended most sessions. Said interest in the outdoors was high and could lead to additional work for the commission.
7. Adjourn
   1. John Stroud made motion to adjourn
      1. Catherine Carroll seconded
      2. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: March 8, 2022

Consider doing a social afterward among the Commission members (again)