

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting March 8, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present: Craig Heindel, Chair, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Matthew Gorton, Karen Pettersen and Tyler Steff

Absent: Don Dewees

Guests: Barry Estabrook, Carl Cole, Steven True

Craig opened the Zoom meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The February 8th, 2022 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as amended.

A. Follow –up business

1. Membership -Sasha Antohin, ErinTeodosio, Jen Walker, Leah Foerster and Tim Etchells have removed themselves from the list of people seeking membership on the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission (FCC). The remaining candidates for membership are Barry Estabrook and Rachel Gucker. Barry has sent a letter to the Selectboard expressing his interest in becoming a member of the FCC. Rachel told Craig that she has limited time, maybe 1 hour a month that she can devote to the FCC. We voted to recommend Barry for membership in the FCC. Rachel was not recommended. Amy suggested that we include a description and an expectation of the rough number of hours involved for people seeking FCC membership.
2. VAST bridge over Lewis Creek – no updates.
3. Lewis Creek Presentation on Feb. 9th. Matt said 14 people attended the zoom presentation. Amy and Jen asked if we should ask people to sign up ahead of time or register. Craig would like to keep the meetings open. Jen said they could add it to CHAT with their emails. *Jen asked Tyler to add a subscription link to be included on our general mailing list.*
4. Trails Committee – Amy heard from Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, and the committee has been formed. Amy will participate.

B. Sullivan Zoning Application

1. Karen contacted Bonnie Barnes, Town Zoning Administrator, to ask if the ZBA has made a decision regarding this application. She replied that the ZBA hasn't made a decision. Steven True, the acting Town Zoning Administrator, said the application is pending.

C. Cornerstone Subdivision Application

1. Craig explained this project is a 53 lot subdivision that is being reviewed by the Planning Commission (PC).
2. Bonnie Barnes mentioned to Craig that the applicant said they were not planning to submit any further information.
3. Craig said the VT Natural Resources Atlas shows rare, threatened and endangered species on this property. Craig, also, explained that there will be an on-site community waste water system for the lots.
4. Steven said the PC asked for a letter from the Water District affirming the number of lots the District will supply water to, either 32 or 54. The PC, also, wants to know if the commercial lots will have access to the Water District's water.

5. Craig said he couldn't attend the March 16th PC hearing. Mark said he will recuse himself from the Cornerstone and Markowski discussions, because he is an abutter landowner. Jen asked what is expected of the FCC at this hearing. Craig said the Planning Commissions needs to get thru the jurisdictional issues first, and then we would submit our comments to the PC, etc. at the next step.
6. Craig said there is a wetland delineation and the FCC is waiting for the State's review comments.
7. Steve said he had a question regarding the percent of slope above the wetland.
8. Craig said the water supply isn't an issue for the FCC.
9. Craig said maybe Don could attend the March 16th hearing. *Jen said she could if Don couldn't. Tyler said he could, also, attend.*

D. Markowski 3-Lot Subdivision

1. Craig explained that this project is uphill from the Cornerstone project. The project is in the Sketch Plan stage before the PC. Craig reported that Bonnie wasn't sure if the site plan was submitted, which Steven confirmed that the Site Plan wasn't submitted.
2. *Craig will check with Steven concerning the site plan submission.*
3. Craig asked Steven to check on his Town email address.
4. Craig said we don't have enough information to make any comments.
5. Craig said we would like to attend a site visit.

E. Pierce Lane Subdivision

1. Carl Cole, realtor, said there seems to be some confusion regarding the wetlands regarding this proposed 4 lot subdivision of f Pierce Lane. Pierce, the landowner, had a wetland delineation conducted over 90% of her property, by Matt Montgomery, wetland consultant. Carl reported that Zapata Courage, District Wetland Ecologist, agreed with his delineation.
2. The Agency of Transportation (AOT) driveway, north of this project, had been an issue in 2000. Carl said Pierce asked that the AOT r-o-w be extended to the rest of the Pierce property. Pierce wanted to renegotiate a new r-o-w with AOT, but the AOT wasn't interested.
3. Carl said there is a good chance that the project won't go beyond the Sketch Plan stage. He also said the project would be subject to Act 250. He is asking the FCC to treat this application like we are treating the Cornerstone Subdivision.
4. Carl said he did a preliminary septic investigation and he found good soils. There might be a shared septic system for 2 lots. No building envelopes have been determined.
5. Craig asked about a potential site visit, maybe in April. Carl said the owner is away and won't be back until May.
6. Craig said if this project goes forward it might trigger a stormwater permit and Carl responded that the project probably will since the solar farm, [north of the project] had to get a stormwater permit.
7. Carl said he talked with Scott Dillon, VACCD Survey Archeologist, and if the project proceeds an archeological assessment will have to be conducted.
8. Carl said the project is limited to 4 lots, because any additional lot(s) would require a different access to Route 7.
9. Matt G. said a Spring site visit would be best to look for salamander habitats. Carl said the Open Space lot to the west of the 4 lots would be ideal habitat for salamanders.
10. Steven said if the FCC requests a site visit he would pass that along to the PC. He said this subdivision would qualify as a Major Subdivision.
11. The site visit was set for April 9th, Sat. That date would be before the scheduled PC and FCC meetings. All the members agreed.

F. Abenaki Presentation

1. The presentation by Judy Dow will be on March 23rd using Zoom.
2. Craig asked Jen for a brief description for advertising that Craig and Amy will handle.
3. Jen asked Tyler if he added a link on the Town's website for this presentation. If needed, he can contact Pam, the Town Clerk, for assistance.
4. The "drive around" Ferrisburgh portion of the presentation is still being worked out.
5. Matt G. sent out an email to people at UVM who might be interested in this presentation.

G. Town Forest

1. Matt G. went out with the UVM NR206 students in Feb. to the Town Forest, and lent them game cameras to install.
2. The students wanted to ask for volunteers to help with an impromptu bio blitz (inventory) to identify birds, animals and plant species. March 19th, Sat. was set as the date for the bio blitz.

H. Bird Presentation

1. Amy said Bridgett Butler is all set for the "birding around Ferrisburgh". *Amy will contact her again to find out where Bridgett thinks the best birding spots are for a possible group of 15.* The date is set for May 7th from 8am -11 am.
2. *Amy will start advertising this event by sending an email out to the FCC email list and the posting it on Front Porch Forum.*

I. AVCC– Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions

1. Amy hasn't heard from Deb regarding the payment of dues to AVCC.

J. Planning Commission

1. *Craig will continue to participate with the Planning Commission regarding the PUD issue.*

K. New Business

1. Carl Cole said the Pierce Woods Subdivision off Stage Road is being revived.
2. Jen said the Mid Champlain Valley Regional Conservation Partnership applied for a grant to conduct ebird training using Mark LaBarr or Bridget Butler.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be April 12, 2022.

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary

