

**Tamworth Conservation Commission
- Conservation Lands Review Committee-
Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2006**

A working session of Tamworth's **Conservation Lands Review Committee** was held on March 16, 2006, at 7:00 pm at the Tamworth Town Office conference room.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chris Conrod, Chair, Chele Miller, David Little, Elaine Cleveland, Margaret Rieser, John Mersfelder.

Also in attendance: Scott Aspinall

1. **February's Meeting Minutes:** were accepted as submitted following the noted correction:

<i>Action</i> <i>Chris J</i> <i>Chris J</i>	Other proposed map layers to construct: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Granite Soil Deposits</u>• <u>Prime Wetlands Map</u> Using Barry Keith's map as a guide, along with various others, an attempt will be made to consolidate information into a digitalized map. Chris will trace the USDS base map in order to digitalize this information.
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The minutes will be posted on the Tamworth Exchange website.

Recording of Agenda Items addressed and actions assigned:

2. Review Goals and Procedures:

a. NHACC Manual

<i>Action:</i>	Since the work of identifying the components of the NRI is ongoing, committee members were asked to read through and consider the material. Suggestions: John Mersfelder found information from the Guilford, Conn. 2005 NRI study to be very complete and excellent. He suggested that committee members view the information at www.ci.guilford.ct.us/BDS . No additional NRI categories were suggested.
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- b. Notes from Steve Whitman: Chris Conrod wrote a brief synopsis outlining the NRI section of the **Advanced Environmental Planning**. (Refer to Chris's handout – *Addendum A*.) Steve Whitman will be leading a Green Mountain Conservation Group Workshop on how to prioritize regional planning needs. Dates: Friday-March 24th. Second in the series of the Groundwater Conferences will be held on Saturday, April 22nd 9 am-3pm at Camp Cody, Ossipee Lake.

An additional workshop that would be beneficial for to members attend:

- c. "Saving Special Places" Workshop,

<i>Action:</i>	John Mersfelder, will request authorization for covering the price of admission for two attendees from this committee. The workshop is scheduled for April 1, 2006 at Kingswood High in Wolfeboro.
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3. Progress Update

- a. Prime Wetlands Map: David Little presented the Tamworth Prime Wetland DES 2000 Map to the committee. (Map data information will be updated by DES, in

the Spring 2006.) *Addendum B* He raised the question as to whether these areas shown as Prime Wetlands were actually adopted by the town. And if they were, when? There is no record of a Warrant Article written to adopt the areas.

<p><i>Follow-up Action:</i></p> <p><i>John Mersfelder & David Little</i></p>	<p>The status of prime wetlands is not known.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't have a definition of Prime Wetlands. • John & David will investigate further. <p><i>Note:</i> During the meeting Scott Aspinall phoned Willie Farnum to ask if he recalled if the town ever defined Prime Wetlands. Willie answered that in 1986 there was a write-up in the Annual Report that recommended that certain Prime Wetlands be identified. It was not passed. In 1987, it was voted on to send a request to NH DES –Wetlands division to proceed with the process.</p>
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b. Agricultural Soils

Margaret Rieser

Chris re-directed Margaret's assignment as he had found that the guide published by NH Fish and Game contained filter layers and data levels in a GIS format identifying Tamworth's prime agricultural soils. Area calculations could be taken from the maps contained in the guide. With diminishing land available for growing crops, the NRI needs to emphasize areas containing good agricultural soils, as they may be needed in the future.

<p><i>Action:</i></p> <p><i>Margaret's revised assignment.</i></p> <p><i>Chris J</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do a "wind-shield" survey. (Consider any field that has been "rocked" means someone tried to grow something.) "Identify: a working farm, field and/or a pasture, or open space and add an assessment of how active it is (i.e. any grazing, mowing, haying, recreational activities, apparent)?" • To get 5 copies of NH Fish and Game map and schedule a committee work session- we will combine all the committee's working knowledge and mark the map accordingly.
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c. Aesthetics

Elaine Cleveland

The homework assigned during the February meeting was that committee members would define the aesthetic sense of what Tamworth offered them. The exercise was suggested as a realization that different people see beauty in different ways. The purpose of the inventory is to be a viable and useful tool well into the future. We, as a committee, have established a goal to define Tamworth's natural resources as completely and as diversely cross-sectioned as possible. Part of the dilemma is in finding a way to hear from all of Tamworth's voices, therefore rounding out the category to more accurately depict public opinion.

- Submissions of "places of beauty" would be incorporated into the inventory and included in the final recommendations.
- Committee members who wrote descriptive phrases distributed photocopies among those present.

- Further discussion centered on the need to discover a less complicated format that would impress people with the ideas, illustrate clearly in a more accessible manner that would encourage creative interpretation.

<p><i>Assignments:</i> <i>Elaine J</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an <i>Aesthetics</i> category outline. • Continue researching methods for presenting the category and bring more ideas to the next meeting.
<p><i>Action: All J</i> <i>Think of methods for reaching more residents. A poll of other opinions is needed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A Poster</u> will be displayed at the Town Meeting on March 18th. • <u>A Polling Survey</u>: survey distributed at the Town Meeting to attendees asking for their “places of beauty”. • The results of the survey will be discussed at the April meeting. • A prime need is a town website linking all the various boards.

c. Progress Update - Geologic

Chris Conrod

Maps from Chris:

- A copy of the Generalized Bedrock Geologic Map of New Hampshire from the NH Department of Environmental Services. Showing soil type: Devonian and location of earthquake fault lines existing in the S. Tamworth area. **Addendum C**
- Watershed Boundary Map: *Comment:* All of Tamworth is in the Ossipee Watershed. **Addendum D**

d. Focus Discussion - Wildlife

Chris Conrod

Hand-outs from Chris: A collection of facts from different research sources and could be used in our final reporting.

- A listing of available Wildlife Habitat Maps from the Fish & Game Inventory Guide. **Addendum E-1**
- -- A listing of Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Exemplary Natural Communities in Tamworth taken from NH Natural Heritage Inventory; DRED Div. of Forests and Lands **Addendum E-2.1 & E-2.2.**
- NH Species of Special Concern; (State endangered, State threatened) their last known habitat. **Addendum E-3.**

Adjournment: 9:45 pm.

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2006

Please note: there is a change of location

The Remick Farm Museum - 7:00 pm.

Conservation Lands Review Committee Meetings are open meetings

– We welcome your participation–

ADDITIONAL BOXES

<p><i>Committee members</i> <i>“Agreed”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Areas of poorly drained soil</u> will be added as a new category following “Wetlands”.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Air Quality</u> will be added as a new category. (<i>Committee felt this would be a major concern in the future.</i>) • <u>Invasive Species</u> will be added as a new category under “Vegetation”. (<i>Ex. Knotweed overtaking the banks along the Swift River.</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the category <u>Forest Communities</u>.
	<p>The Town Clerk’s Office keeps a file for every landowner who has qualified for “Current Use” status. A listing of types of hardwoods and softwoods found on the designated acreage is a part of this record. Margaret will look through a few files to get a better idea of how detailed the listing is, and whether this information would be a resource for indexing purposes.</p>
<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map sizes should all be of the same scale.
<p><i>Assignments:</i> <i>Chris J</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris will look over “Land SAT Maps” (for size manageability for digitalizing).