

Conservation Lands Review Committee
10/23/07

Present: Chris, David, Scott, John, Chele
Not Present: Margaret, Elaine

September 25, 2007 Minutes: Accepted as written

071009 Memo:

Chris suggested attaching minutes/notes of the Conservation Commission meeting which was attended by John, David and Chris. Topics: Cersosimo Lot and Stewardship. It was decided the minutes would not be attached as both matters are now in the hands of the TCC.

CLRC Tasks: What constitutes completion?

- NRI Chapter for Master Plan (not part of the original task) - Done
- NRI
 - The NRI with the cooccurrence map, all digital Arc Explorer data layers and the scoring system will be given to the TCC.

- Review system for Easements (as Cersosimo Conservation Value Evaluation) -Done
 - A template for future Conservation Value Evaluation will be provided to the TCC

- Easement Management and Administration - Includes the stewardship question.
 - CLRC needs to organize its recommendations in written form.
 - Discussion followed regarding where the TCC would get stewardship funds, whether conservation fund monies could be used and what amounts are necessary.
 - David made a motion to recommend to the TCC that they request an article on the town warrant to increase the cap on the change of use funds from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and place that additional money (up to \$5,000) in a stewardship trust fund.

Chris asked whether these funds might also be used to hire a person to oversee and manage stewardship. David suggested that would not be the intent of this fund. It was agreed this might be considered in the future. It begs the question: When is it best to have the town accept easements and when easements ought to be referred to other land trusts?

John noted that also raises the question of how aggressive the TCC ought to be in proactively seeking/promoting land preservation? John raised the question again as to whether the TCC ought to make the CLRC an on-going committee to carry out that proactive mission. The CLRC will pursue these recommendations at a later date.

David's motion received a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

- Prioritizing Land Conservation Efforts -
 - Discussion will follow later in this meeting.

- Public Education and Easement Advocacy -
 - David noted the December, 2005, memo laying out tasks included a review of current preservation tools for landowners considering preservation.

MP NRI Chapters

Written chapters are completed. David will add some specific information and maps to complete it.

Cooccurrence Map Revisions

- Chris distributed a list of all Cooccurrence layers with the score protocol.
 - re Flood plains: David has replaced the WAP floodplain with the FEMA floodplain map.
 - re Wetlands: Prime Wetlands are mapped in the National Wetlands Inventory which are scored as separate aspects.

Discussion considered whether the current scoring system results in overlap which distorts the score upward. David will explore the possibility of showing intersections within the wetland categories. In conclusion, it was decided that the overlap of categories in Wetlands leading to potential scores exceeding 5 are not unreasonable. The same potential exists in other areas, such as Agriculture.

-David has refined the cooccurrence map and questions which manner of presenting it provides the most accurate and useful representation--standard score or logrhythmic score. It was agreed the log score system discriminate more and is, therefore, more useful.

TCC Land Conservation Mission/Focus

•Chris raised the question: Should all attributes which are included in the Co-occurrence categories be weighted equally or should some be given higher conservation value? Is the CLRC prepared to make a recommendation to the TCC regarding protection and use regulation of a specific water source for Tamworth? A motion was made by John to make that recommendation. It was unanimously affirmed.

•Agriculture: It was decided that CLRC will recommend that the TCC research local organizations (i.e. Sustainable Tamworth) to research available vehicles and trusts to preserve agricultural lands and encourage local agriculture.

•Wetlands: It is recommended the TCC:

- 1.) increase the wetlands buffer.
- 2.) protect uplands around wetlands.
- 3.) involve residents in inventorying, mapping and protecting vernal pools.

•Lakes, Ponds and Streams: It is recommended the TCC continue it's exemplary effort to protect surface water through shoreline land protection.

•Pine Barrens: It is recommended TCC:

- 1.) develop a working relationship with the Nature Conservancy to support their efforts to protect the pine barrens.
- 2.) pursue a composting area to support residents' efforts to manage natural debris/accelerants in the pine barrens.

•Access/Fragmentation: It is recommended TCC:

-pursue protection/preservation of parcels in the patchwork of unfragmented lands.
There was discussion of class 6 roads, especially those which bisect unfragmented lands. It was decided this would not fall under the auspices of the TCC, at least at this time.

•Forest Development Potential and Wildlife will be addressed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00pm at Scott's house.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Chele Miller