

**Draft Minutes
Tamworth Conservation Commission
Town Office
March 10, 2008**

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.

Present: Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, David Haskell, John Mersfelder, Donna Veilleux, Charlie Townsend, Susan Ticehurst (Administrative Assistant). At 8:25 Scott Aspinall arrives.

1. Call to Order: 7:07 pm:

Ned Beecher, vice-chair appointed John Mersfelder as a voting member for Bryan Berlind.

2. Approval of Minutes of Feb. 11, 2008:

Charlie Townsend moved to accept minutes as written, Donna Veilleux seconded, all approved.

3. Administrative Matters:

Reappointments: John M. indicated Ned Beecher and Charlie Townsend are the TCC members whose terms expire March 2008. Both Charlie and Ned graciously committed themselves to another 3-year term on the TCC. John M. moved that we recommend reappointment to the BOS, Donna V. seconded, all approved.

Membership/Alternates: John M. introduced Jeremy Phillips to the board as a potential associate or alternate member of the TCC. Jeremy is an assistant naturalist at the Squam Lakes Science Center; Jeremy has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Central Michigan University. Jeremy spoke on his behalf and shared a bit of his professional/personal life. His interest in conservation, wildlife, nature and desires for civic contribution indicated he would be a fine addition to the TCC. After a 15-minute conversation and his assurance of his willingness to learn and work, Donna V. moved to recommend to the BOS his appointment as alternate to the TCC, John M seconded, all approved.

Report from Administrative Assistant: Susan T. reports progress continues with the reorganization of our files. She reports she is pleased with the progress and goals. There was some discussion about electronic availability of the TCC handbook. We all agree the reorganization is a work in progress and in time electronic files will be available.

Receipt of Hemenway Permit: John M. indicated the permit has been issued and received. The expiration date is Dec. 31, 2010. John is pleased to learn there is a specific contact in the Division of Forest Lands Regional office being Bob Hardy. Bob is the forester for Hemenway Forest.

Budget Coordinator Report: Charlie T. indicated due to the budget not yet being passed, the budget lines are all zeros. Charlie will be at town meeting and will be able to answer all budgetary questions. He reviewed all the budgetary line items and was comfortable with what they reflected.

4. Land Acquisition Matters:

A. McConarty Revised Proposed Conservation Easement Language. Ned indicated, as directed by the board, he worked with the SPNIF boilerplate easement language and incorporated these updates in the easement language received from Irene Garvey and Mr. McConarty. Ned indicated he has sent this new language to Mr. McConarty and Irene for their review. John M. suggested that part of the agreement should be that the boundaries should be marked at the expense of Mr. McConarty. Willie Farnum suggested that an agreement for a 90-day time limit

for the bounds to be set; there was general consensus that the easement would not be registered until the boundaries are set. John M. noted a public hearing is not necessary, but it is the nature and practice of the TCC board to provide one. Donna V. suggested that a public hearing before final agreement on easement language might not be in the best interest of all parties involved. In the event there is agreement, Ned will go ahead and post the public hearing meeting on April 4 for our next mtg. on April 14, 2008.

B. Cerssosimo Land Purchase- Negotiation results/ Executive Session:

At approximately 7:45pm John M. moved to go into non-public session (Executive Session) to discuss the negotiations with Tim Hanson, representative of the Cerssosimo Land, Donna V. seconded, all approved.

Donna Veilleux moved to reconvene the TCC public meeting at 8:25pm, seconded by John M., all approved. Scott Aspinall joins the public TCC meeting at this time.

It was noted by Vice Chair, Ned Beecher that discussion pursued on the topic of land negotiations with Tim Hanson. There was general consensus that minutes will be sealed till the end of May.

5. Preparation for 2008 Town Meeting/Budget Explanation: Charlie T. noted the TCC's budget is addressed in article # 23 and the Finance and the BOS recommend this article. Charlie also noted no individual items stand out. The clerical line has increased due to it reflecting a full year and professional fees remain unpredictable. Charlie will be at town meeting to address concerns if they do arise.

6. Wetlands Matters: Bear Camp Valley Snowmobile Club SUP application- Planning Board action and TCC report: John M. indicated this application was stamped as received by the Town on Jan. 15, 2008. It was found in the TCC mailbox recently. John M. also indicated that it has been accepted as complete by the PB. It seems procedure remains unclear due to the fact the TCC did not receive notification that the application was accepted as complete by the PB. After much discussion addressing procedure, all agree the conversation will continue with town officials to refine and define the correct procedure to aid in efficient and timely review. John M. Ned B. and Bryan B. will follow through by next meeting.

Members began commenting on the SUP application at this time. John M. asked the board if it should be referred to the Wetland Sub Service Cmt. Ned B. suggested that we review the application tonight. Much discussion was made about the Special Use Permit Checklist # 1, Streets, roads and other access ways, utility right-of-way easement, including power line and pipe lines that had been checked-off on the application. After much discussion about access ways, it was determined that a more appropriate use should be #3... A use not otherwise permitted in the Wetlands Conservation District that is not in conflict with any and all of the purpose and intent criteria listed in Section A of the Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance. Discussion continued on Section A. Purpose and Intent and all agreed that it met all the criteria in 1-7. It was general consensus that the misuse of this area was caused by ATV's not snowmobiles and that the snowmobile club is being proactive with the SUP application and is in fact improving the degradation, and preventing the continued creation of a mud hole. It was agreed by members who had visited the site, John M., David H and Donna V. that there was not a better location for this to be rerouted due to the lay of the land. Much discussion on the construction of a bridge with 8-10 2x8's and the necessary number of 10 footers and decking to cover approx. a 50 sq. ft. area; all agreed this would prevent further erosion and improve the area. John M. indicated that DES has sent its approval on this project. Donna V. motioned that we recommend to the PB that this SUP application be granted under #3 on Special Use Permit Checklist; that Purpose and Intent has been met, and on the condition that both ends of the trail (Paugus Rd. and Fowlers Mill Rd.) be posted with NO ATV's ALLOWED. David H. seconded, all approved.

7. Committee/Coordinator Reports:

- A. A. TCC Managed Lands & Trails Committee** - Dave Haskell recommended a sub-committee meeting for our April tasks and to coordinate activities for Trails Day on June 7th in the near future, all agreed. Also, Dave spoke of the Bear-Camp sign and a \$250.00 appraisal from Denis Dicey. It was agreed that we would wait till Bryan B. came back with a cost figure from the NH Department of Prisons work force division that he was to pursue.
- B. B. Easement Monitoring Coordinator** -Claes T- not present/ no report
- C. C. Publication, Publicity, Outreach, Education Committee-** Donna V. reminded the board that TCC has committed 5 members in attending the Wildlife Action Plan Workshop on March 27, sponsored by GMCG and Fish and Game. Donna also noted that she has emailed Cassandra and requested that she make available the recent changes in the Shoreline Protection Act to take affect in April 1, 2008; noted the upcoming Auto Salvage Yard Info session at Runnells Hall on March 17,6:30-8:30 pm ; noted the annual SPINF conference , Saving Special Places on April 5, 8:30 am-4 pm
- D. D. Selectman's Rep-** Willie Farnum- Willie informed the board that at Town Meeting there will be a presentation of the Boston Post Cane to the eldest citizens of Tamworth.
- E. E. Planning Board Rep-** David Cluff – not present/no report

8. New Businesses: Ned B. reports that Chris Clyne has heard from the state tower folks. It appears they have metal plaque/certificates that could be placed at the tower. Ned read the potential wording and their being no objections would ask Chris C. to follow thorough. Some discussion suggested that some sort of festive celebration/dedication would be appropriate. Spring or Fall were both discussed.

9. Old Business: Bear Camp sign (replacement)... previously discussed, see # 7.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Scott A. at 9:30pm, seconded by Dave Haskell, all approved.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Veilleux, acting secretary, March 16, 2008.