

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Minutes

April 12, 2010

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

Call to Order

Chair Ned Beecher called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present

Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, Skip Nason (Planning Board Representative), Nelson O'Bryan, Margaret Rieser, and John Roberts (Select Board Representative) attended.

Nomination

- Nelson O'Bryan moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to nominate Chele Miller as a full member of the Conservation Commission. The motion passed, 4-0, (Margaret Rieser having arrived after the vote).
- Ned Beecher will bring the nomination to the Select Board for appointment. If approved, Chele Miller will be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Approval of Minutes

March 8, 2010 Regular Meeting

Kathy Bunker moved, and Nelson O'Bryan seconded, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 8, 2010 as presented. The motion passed with no objection.

Vernal Pools

- Jamie Riel, Richard Posner and Caleb Leahy discussed the Vernal Pool Program of the Great Hill Ecology Center, which is a branch of the Tamworth Learning Circles. The State of NH and the Green Mountain Conservation Group are cooperating partners.
- High school students intern, studying vernal pools.
- Citizens are encouraged to report possible vernal pools for observation and verification.
- Volunteers are sought for monitoring vernal pools one to two times per year.
- A training session is being offered at the Remick Museum on May 6th, 2010, from 12:30-4:00.
- Intern Caleb Leahy will be taking photographs and making a presentation in the spring.
- Jamie Riel offered to train easement monitors so that they may identify potential pools while monitoring conservation easements.

Administrative

Nominations and Appointments

- Nelson O'Bryan moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to nominate Ned Beecher as Commission Chair, Charlie Townsend as Treasurer, and Kathy Bunker as Secretary. The motion passed with no objection.
- John Roberts has been appointed by the Select Board as their representative to the Commission.
- Skip Nason has been appointed by the Planning Board as their representative to the Commission.
- David Little was thanked for his work as Select Board Representative during the past year.
- John Mersfelder will continue as Chair of the Conservation Lands Review Committee, but Chris Conrod will no longer be a member.
- Kathy Bunker will continue as Chair of the Easement Monitoring Committee.
- Nelson O'Bryan and Scott Eldridge will be Co-Chairs of the Managed Lands and Trails Committee.
- Bill Batchelder will continue as Chair of the Outreach Committee.
- Bill Batchelder will be Chair of the Wetlands and Subsurface Committee, with Chele Miller assisting.
- Margaret Rieser will act as liaison for agricultural matters in the community.
- Chris Clyne will continue as Chair of the Household Hazardous Waste Day Committee.
- Bryan Berlind and Ned Beecher will continue with the Ordinance Review Committee.

Budget Update

- \$5970 remains of the \$6,400 budget. \$429.68 was spent on dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and personnel expenses.
- The Conservation Fund ended the month of February with a balance of \$130,294.65, some of which is dedicated to the Gilman Forest Project.

Administrative Assistant

- Kathy Bunker moved, and Nelson O'Bryan seconded, to fund the cost of living increase of three percent approved for town employees at the March 2010 Town Meeting, effective April 1, 2010. The motion passed with no objection.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Select Board Representative

- John Roberts noted a scheduling conflict between the Commission meetings and the Library Board meetings. He serves as Select Board Representative to both groups.
- John will mow at Wildfowl Haven in the fall.

Planning Board Representative

- Skip Nason reported that the application for a cell phone tower off Durrell Road (Map/Lot 414/10) was not approved due to new information being presented at the meeting.
- David Cluff is now Chair of the Planning Board's Earth Excavation Committee.
- Hank Letarte's application for a gravel pit license renewal has been returned to the Planning Board.
- Two lot subdivision requests were considered.

Energy Commission Representative

- A representative from the Conservation Commission to the Energy Commission is needed.

Easement Monitoring

- A few monitoring reports remain to be turned in.

Family Day / Earth Day

- The Energy Committee is interested in planning events for Family Day this year and Earth Day next year.
- Everyone is welcome to ascend the fire tower at dawn to celebrate the 40th Earth Day.

Managed Lands and Trails

- At the request of the Select Board, the Conservation Commission will check the Dianne Shaw Meadow Lot off of Depot Road annually. The Commission decided to do so at the time of the annual easement monitoring.
- Bill Batchelder will pick up and distribute the trails brochure which has been printed.
- Map boxes are up.
- The signs for Jackman Pond and the fire tower are nearly done.
- Margaret Rieser will contact Dave Bowles of the snowmobile club about posting a map at the kiosk.
- Ned Beecher will check to see if Kristel Reid Faris plans to paint the fire tower.
- Nelson O'Bryan will select a date for brushing and blazing Betty's Path and notify other members.
- Ned Beecher will complete the Wildfowl Haven map.
- Margaret Rieser assessed the Easy Walker and Earle Remick Trails. Only minor clearing is needed at the Easy Walker trail. Arrows and numbers must be replaced at the Earle Remick Trail. Ned Beecher will obtain the blazing materials needed. Chele Miller will assist Margaret Rieser with the work.
- Margaret Rieser has notified the Tamworth Outing Club and Wonalancet Outdoor Club of the renaming of Betty's Path.
- Ned will meet with a representative of White Lake State Park to discuss coordinating trail signage. The Commission will provide a master copy of the trail map for the State Park to reproduce.

Wetlands Matters

Mill Brook Beaver Activity

- Ned Beecher and Nelson O'Bryan will work with Jim Alt and Scott Aspinall on identifying a solution to the flooding of the bridge over Mill Brook. Since the wetlands have been expanded, a wetlands permit will be required.

Chocorua Valley Lumber

- The Commission has been notified of possible NH and Tamworth wetlands regulation violations at Chocorua Valley Lumber, Map/Lot 206/40&41.
- The NH Department of Environmental Services has been notified.
- It was noted that the owner, Lloyd Rhodes, has had previous wetlands violations on other property in Tamworth.

- The Commission will delegate the matter to its Wetlands and Subsurface Committee, suggesting a site visit with the NH Department of Environmental Services. Permission must be granted by the owner for access to the property.
- The Commission's role is to advise DES on matters under their jurisdiction. The Commission also advises the Planning and Select Boards regarding the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance.
- Ned Beecher will contact the NH Department of Environmental Services to see what their intent is, if they plan a site visit, and if Commission members may go along on that visit. He will then relay this information to Kathy Bunker, Bryan Berlind, Margaret Rieser and Chele Miller.

Agricultural Matters

The first organizational meeting of the year for the farmer's market is being held this week.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Gilman Forest Project

- Details of an agreement between the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and neighbors of the Gilman Project are being worked out.
- The budget is being reviewed.
- Additional contributions have been received, bringing the total above the target, however expenses may also have been above those anticipated.

Other Business

Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop

- The Commission will cover fees if members wish to attend this event on Friday, April 30th at the Grappone Center in Concord. Kathy Bunker attended last year and felt it was well worth it.

Green Mountain Conservation Group

- The water quality report is available in the TCC mailbox.
- The group will make a presentation on aquifer protection ordinances to the Planning Board.
- A workshop on best management practices for salt use and aquifer protection will be held at the Madison Town Hall on April 29, 2010.

Non-Public Session

- Bill Batchelder moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to go into non-public session as allowed under RSA 91-A:3,II, to review the minutes of the non-public session held on March 8, 2010 and to review negotiations regarding a land matter.
- A role call vote was taken with all members voting in favor.
- Nelson O'Bryan moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to go out of non-public session at 9:20 pm. The motion passed with no objection.
- Kathy Bunker moved, and Nelson O'Bryan seconded, to seal the minutes of the non-public session until April 12, 2011. The motion passed with no objection.

Adjournment

Margaret Rieser moved, and Nelson O'Bryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:21. The motion passed with no objection.