

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

February 9, 2009

Approved on 3/9/09.

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Ned Beecher.
- Members present were Scott Aspinall, Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Bryan Berlind, Kathy Bunker (Alternate), David Haskell, Margaret Rieser, Charlie Townsend
- Kathy Bunker acted as alternate to Scott Aspinall until his arrival.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting were amended to include the month of January and year 2009 after "Willie Farnum reported that the deadline for submissions to the town report is the 29th".
- Dave Haskell moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to accept the minutes of January 12, 2009, as corrected. The motion passed, 3-0, with two abstentions.

Administrative

Budget Hearing

- Members are invited to attend the Town Budget Hearing this Thursday, Feb 12th, 6:00 pm.

Warrant Articles – Town Meeting March 11

- Final preparation may be done at the next Tamworth Conservation Commission meeting on March 9.
- It was recommended that several Commission members attend Town Meeting.
- Thanks to Bill Batchelder & Kathy Bunker for the article they submitted to the Tamworth Civic News.
- It was reported that the Select Board does not plan to comment on the warrant articles.
- Bill Batchelder will find out what numbers will be assigned to the warrant articles.
- Possible concerns that voters may raise were considered. One might be that some do not believe the town should be involved in land conservation. Another might be a fear of opening a door to something that is not understood. The importance of educating voters so they understand the warrant articles was discussed.
- Kathy Bunker and Bill Batchelder will post a shortened version of the Civic News article on the Tamworth Exchange and submit it to the Conway Daily Sun and Carroll County Independent to maximize publicity.

Administrative Assistant Report

- Envelopes were ordered as authorized, with Minute Man giving a discount to meet our budgeted amount.
- Ned Beecher and Susan Ticehurst have worked out a plan to allocate administrative time to specific tasks.
- A key to the glass front cabinet in the hallway of the town offices is now located in the front of the locked TCC file cabinet.
- A roster of members' contact information and term expiration dates was distributed. Those members whose terms expire must decide if they would like to be reappointed. Bill Batchelder volunteered to stay on. Bryan Berlind will communicate his decision to Ned Beecher. Ned will ask Scott Aspinall what his wishes are.
- Ned urged Commission members to recruit alternates for the commission and as committee members.

Budget Report

- Charlie Townsend reported that about \$2000 budgeted for 2008 will be turned back to the general fund.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to authorize payment of \$225 for annual dues to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. The motion passed with no objection.
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Wetlands Matters

Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club / Great Hill Reservation Trust

- A Special Use Permit Application has been submitted to, but not yet formally approved by, the Planning Board.
- The snowmobile club must still submit a Dredge and Fill Application to the NH Department of Environmental Services. This application will provide more information.
- Further consideration of this matter will be added to the agenda for the March 9, 2009 Commission agenda.

- The landowner has given permission for OVSC to finish the new bridge, so the trail may reopen within the next few weeks.

Bridge Replacement

- The NH Department of Environmental Services has asked for more information from engineers working for the Town regarding the bridge replacement on Cleveland Hill Road. The Tamworth Conservation Commission has not commented on the project.

Forestry

- A Complete Forestry Notification for the lot number 411/30 was received.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNF)

- SPNF is considering a project whereby they would have ownership of some land with the Town of Tamworth holding a conservation easement on the property.
- The project will be reviewed by the Conservation Land Review Committee prior to consideration by the full Commission. Ned will alert Commission members regarding the date and time of the CLRC meetings on this matter.

Wellhead & Aquifer Protection

- Kathy Bunker presented information on wellhead protection and will send additional information to Ned Beecher for inclusion with the minutes.
- It was noted that Green Mountain CG has done an inventory of potential contamination sources in Tamworth.
- Wellhead protection, aquifer protection and water extraction were noted as issues for consideration.
- The Ossipee Watershed Coalition intends to work with towns to update aquifer protection.
- There was general agreement that water protection should be a project for 2009.
- Kathy Bunker will invite representatives from the Green Mountain Conservation Group and the Ossipee Watershed Coalition to the March 9, 2009 Tamworth Conservation Commission Meeting.
- An annual Drinking Water Source Protection Program is planned for Friday, May 1st for a fee of \$25 per person. Commission members wishing to attend should email Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher.

Committee / Coordinator Reports

Select Board

- Ned Beecher reported that he submitted a letter to the Select Board dated January 15, 2009 reporting the vote of the Commission to establish a restricted fund within the Conservation Fund, to be called the Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Planning Board

- Ned Beecher reported on a Planning Board meeting with the Lakes Region Planning Commission on the topic of gravel pit regulation. The Planning Board is responsible for local oversight of the provisions of the NH statutes and can also put additional town ordinances into place. Each gravel pit should have a plan with annual updates. Plans describe the type of materials, maps, plans for opening and reclaiming each area, equipment storage, handling of fuels and hazardous materials, bonding for closure and other matters. There are approximately seven gravel pits in Tamworth. Margaret Reiser volunteered to act as liaison with the Planning Board by monitoring minutes and/or checking with Dom Bergen, PB Chair, regarding Board progress on this topic

Family Day/Earth Day

- The first of five weekly bird walks will be held on Earth Day, April 22nd (others on subsequent Weds).
- A pot luck dinner with a conservation theme to be held at the Community School was considered.
- Ned Beecher will contact Dave Halpin who may be interested in volunteering for Earth Day.
- The Commission recognized the accomplishments of Glen Johnson. He was commended for keeping a clean transfer station and for how the facility is organized for efficiency.
- It was suggested that it would nice to address the step of "reuse" as a component of the recycling program.

Managed Lands and Trails

- Tamworth is listed on the American Hiking Society's Trail Day website.

- It was noted that the Hemenway Trail will need some work in the spring due to brush growth.
- Bryan Berlind reported that two prisons have declined to make trail signs due to their size. Dave Haskell has found a laminate version online as an alternative to the large carved wooden signs. However, Dave Haskell will create a spec sheet for wooden signs which Ned Beecher will post on the Tamworth Exchange to see if anyone locally is interested in making the sign needed at the Bearcamp River land on Route 25.

Ordinance Review

- Bryan Berlind reported on the February 2nd meeting. All ordinances created within the last 50 years, policies, regulations and rules are being organized into a database. Any gaps that might be identified will be addressed with amendments as needed. The compilation will be forwarded to the town clerk for use as an official document. The selectmen were commended for pursuing this issue.

Other Business

- At the request of the Planning Board, the Commission completed a questionnaire about community challenges; the survey is being done by the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

Adjournment

- Dave Haskell moved, and Bryan Berlind seconded, to adjourn at 8:45 PM. The motion passed with no objection.