

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes May 11, 2009

Approved on June 8, 2009.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Ned Beecher at 7:02 pm.

Members Present

- Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, Dave Haskell, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Nelson O'Bryan (Alternate), Margaret Rieser, Charlie Townsend, John Roberts (Select Board Representative)
- Nelson O'Bryan served as a voting member.

Approval of Minutes

- Bill Batchelder moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 13, 2009. The motion passed with no objection.

Administrative

Members

- Nelson O'Bryan has been sworn in.
- Election of Vice-Chair was tabled for a future meeting.

Budget Report

- Charlie Townsend reported that there have been no changes since the last report.
- He is checking on the Land Use Change Tax deposit to the Cons. Fund for 2008.

Master Plan Implementation

- Charlie Townsend moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, that the Conservation Commission endorse and support the Master Plan.
The sections considered were:
 - 8A: The Conservation Commission should continue to use all available tools to protect natural resources, including wetlands, wildlife, agriculture, forests, open space, recreation areas, and view sheds.
 - 8B: The Board of Selectmen should explore acquiring a town forest to be managed by the Conservation Commission.
 - 8C: The Conservation Commission should encourage agricultural landowners to consider conservation easements.
 - 8E: The Conservation Commission should encourage all woodlot owners to develop a management plan for sustainable forestry using best management practices and consultation with a licensed forester.
 - 8G: The Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen should establish Wildlife Corridors by means of conservation easements and managed development in order to foster the migration and enhance the habitat of area wildlife.
 - 10 B: The Conservation Commission should coordinate efforts to expand and publicize the network of hiking, horseback riding, cross country ski, and snowmobile trails, thereby enhancing outdoor activity opportunities for both town residents and visitors.
 - 10C: The Conservation Commission and the Recreation Director should coordinate efforts to establish a network of trails connecting Hemenway State Forest, Tamworth Village, Jackman Pond, Chocorua Lake, White Lake State Park and other recreational areas. These trails should provide linkages between Tamworth's largest village and the major recreational resources of the town, thereby promoting recreational use while preserving natural beauty and maintaining wildlife corridors and habitats.

- The motion passed with no objection.
- The Commission selected the following as priority areas, (noting that drinking water protection has already been identified as a priority for the year):
 - Encouraging agricultural landowners to consider conservation easements.
 - It was noted that agricultural land is most likely to be developed, provides key habitat and is likely to feature good soil.
 - The establishment of an agricultural commission, as allowed by state statute, was considered.
 - Margaret Rieser will discuss the idea of encouraging conservation easements on agricultural land with some members of the public. A meeting will be called to see if there is interest.
 - Encouraging woodlot owners to develop management plans for sustainable forestry.
 - An annual forest management event may be an example of an activity to implement the plan.
 - Establishing wildlife corridors has been a growing concern and may be addressed by identifying corridors and providing education for land owners, as well as encouraging conservation easements.
 - Coordinating efforts to expand and publicize the network of trails.

Managed Lands & Trails

- Dave Haskell reported on work done on the May Trails Day.
- National Trails Day is on June 6th, with participants meeting at the Town House at 8 AM.
- The conservation easement on Jim Alt's property will be reviewed to see if it allows a gravel public parking area for the Mill Brook Trail. Ned Beecher and Dave Haskell will meet with Jim Alt to assess the situation.
- Charlie Townsend will notify other members when a date to view the Remick Natural Area boundary has been agreed upon with Ron Remick.
- Dave Haskell reported that there are 18 properties along the section of the Bearcamp Trail that the TCC plans to maintain. Dave Haskell will draft a letter to landowners requesting easements. Ned Beecher will put it onto letterhead and send it out.
- Nelson O'Bryan will check the Perkins Trail to see if blazing or other work needs to be done.

Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring

- Kathy Bunker attended a Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop sponsored by DES.
 - Per capita use of water is increasing, especially due to lawn watering and appliance use.
 - Septic system failure is a significant source of contamination.
 - Best management practices were covered.
 - Two options for protection were recommended at the workshop: 1) Enact a town health ordinance, 2) Reclassify the sections of the town as drinking water protection areas and enforce best management practices.
 - Kathy Bunker has Power Point notes that may be borrowed.
- Susan Ticehurst and David Little attended a Green Mountain Conservation Group meeting on the subject of Drinking Water Protection.
- Kathy Bunker will get in touch with Green Mountain Conservation Group for their recommendations on the next steps to take. Nelson O'Bryan will work with Kathy Bunker on this.

Landfill Monitoring

- Nelson O'Bryan and Bill Batchelder met with the engineers who have been monitoring test wells at the closed landfill.
- Volunteers will monitor gas quarterly and monitor the physical site annually, however well water must be monitored by a professional engineer.
- Training and the first gas monitoring will be done later in May, 2009.

Wetlands Matters

Septic System Setback Waiver

- Paul King presented plans for a new septic tank and leach field for the Spaulding Family Trust, Map 412, Lot 12.
- A request will be made to the Planning Board for a waiver. Paul King requested a recommendation from the Conservation Commission in advance of that meeting.
- The new leach field will comply with setback requirements, however the sealed septic tank will not.
- It was noted that the proposal represents an improvement over the existing setback.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to pass on to the Planning Board that the project is an improvement and that the plan be approved. The motion passed with no objection.
- Ned Beecher will get a letter to David Little stating the recommendation of the Conservation Commission.
- David Little will attend the Planning Board meeting.

Big Pines Natural Area

- Paul King suggested revising the trail guide for Big Pines Natural Area, noting that other peaks are higher.

Scott Finman, Lot 414/91, Update

- The Planning board approved a waiver for the 25 foot setback from wetlands.

Great Hill Reservation Trust / Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club Remediation

- A copy of a letter from DES asking the applicant for more information was received.

Cleveland Hill Road Bridge

- The permit for the Town of Tamworth to replace the Cleveland Hill Road bridge was granted. The road will be closed for up to four weeks.

Committee / Coordinator Reports & Appointments of Chairs

Selectman's Representative

- John Roberts thanked the Commission for taking on the task of monitoring at the closed landfill.

Planning Board Representative

- David Little reported that the waiver for the Finman driveway was approved.
- The Planning Board has asked for an amendment to the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club application to include an updated map.

By-Law Updates

- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher, and Charlie Townsend will meet.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Ned Beecher and Chris Clyne will attend the organizational meeting to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Ordinance Review

- Ned Beecher and Bryan Berlind will be meeting on Monday, May 18.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education

- Bill Batchelder reported that a new map box was installed at Big Pines, the contents of which emptied quickly.
- Kathy Bunker will submit an article about water protection to the Green Mountain Conservation Group newsletter.
- Ned Beecher will ask White Lake State Park if a map box can be installed for the Black Spruce trail.
- Waterfowl Haven is in need of a description and map box. David Little will provide a map on which the trail can be drawn.

Adjournment

- Dave Haskell moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to adjourn at 9:19. The motion passed with no objection.

Action Plan – May, 2009

[Excerpted from Minutes]

Bill Batchelder

- Training and the first gas monitoring at the landfill will be done later in May, 2009.

Ned Beecher

- Ned Beecher and Dave Haskell will meet with Jim Alt to consider a parking area.
- Ned Beecher will the letter requesting easements for the Bearcamp River Trail onto letterhead and send it out.
- Ned Beecher will get a letter to David Little stating the recommendation of the Conservation Commission regarding the Spaulding Family Trust waiver request.
- Ned Beecher and Chris Clyne will attend the organizational meeting about Household Hazardous Waste Day to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009.
- Ned Beecher and Bryan Berlind will be meeting regarding ordinance review on Monday, May 18.
- Ned Beecher will ask White Lake State Park if a map box can be installed for the Black Spruce trail.
- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher, and Charlie Townsend will meet concerning by-law review.

Bryan Berlind

- Ned Beecher and Bryan Berlind will be meeting regarding ordinance review on Monday, May 18.

Kathy Bunker

- Kathy Bunker will get in touch with Green Mountain Conservation Group for their recommendations on the next steps to take.
- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher, and Charlie Townsend will meet concerning by-law review.
- Kathy Bunker will submit an article about water protection to the Green Mountain Conservation Group newsletter.

Dave Haskell

- Ned Beecher and Dave Haskell will meet with Jim Alt to consider a parking area.
- Dave Haskell will draft a letter to landowners along the Bearcamp River Trail requesting easements. Ned Beecher will put it onto letterhead and send it out.

David Little

- David Little will provide a map of Waterfowl Haven on which the trail can be drawn.

Nelson O'Bryan

- Nelson O'Bryan will check the Perkins Trail to see if blazing or other work needs to be done.
- Nelson O'Bryan will work with Kathy Bunker on Green Mountain Conservation Group's recommendations for steps to take for drinking water protection.
- Training and the first gas monitoring at the landfill will be done later in May, 2009.

Margaret Rieser

- Discuss, with members of the public, the idea of encouraging agricultural landowners to consider conservation easements. If appropriate, call a meeting to determine if there is sufficient interest. (Post notice of public meeting in advance.)

Charlie Townsend

- Charlie Townsend will notify other members when a date to view the Remick Natural Area boundary has been agreed upon with Ron Remick.

- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher, and Charlie Townsend will meet concerning by-law review.