

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Date: August 10, 2009

Draft minutes to be reviewed at a subsequent meeting.

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Chair Ned Beecher.
- Members present were Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Nelson O'Bryan, Margaret Rieser and Charlie Townsend.
- Nelson O'Bryan was seated as a voting member.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the July 13, 2009 meeting were corrected. The topic "GPS" should be changed to "GIS". The correct spelling of the NH System is "GRANIT".
- Bill Batchelder moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2009 meeting as corrected. The motion passed with no objection.
- The previously sealed minutes regarding negotiations on the Gilman property (March 9, June 8, July 14, July 21, 2009) will be distributed to members for review and consideration of unsealing at the next meeting.

Administrative

Budget Report

- Charlie Townsend reported that in June the balance of the Conservation Fund was \$68,611 and ninety-three percent of the operating budget remained to be spent.
- Payment will be made to the administrative assistant for the period from January through mid-August. Tasks will be prioritized to fall within the limits of the remaining funds for that line item.
- Reimbursement will be made for \$213 under the office supplies line item, mostly for copying of the member handbooks.

Web Site

- Ned Beecher created a web site for the commission, highlighting the Gilman Forest Project.
- The address is www.tamworthconservationcommission.org.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Nelson O'Bryan seconded, to reimburse Ned Beecher \$119 for the web site builder and domain name for the year. The motion passed with no objection.
- The expense will be taken from the Professional Fees line.
- Kathy Bunker will announce the web site on the Tamworth Exchange.

2009 Budget

- It was reported that the Select Board asked that no capital reserve fund items be budgeted. However, it was also noted that the town's capital improvement plan does have a conservation line item in it. The capital reserve fund is created under a committee of the Planning Board who present requests to the Select Board for approval. If necessary, the Commission will present a late request to the Select Board for this.
- The fire tower will be inspected and, if necessary, additional funds for maintenance will be requested.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to submit a budget request to the Select Board, level funding all line items except for increasing "Office Supplies" by \$50, increasing "Postage" by \$75, and adding \$150 for the website. The motion passed with no objection.

Committee / Coordinator Reports

Planning Board Representative

- David Little reported that the Planning Board is having a series of meetings to discuss land use ordinances.

Easement Monitoring

- Kathy Bunker reported that she and Ned Beecher met with Claes Thelemarck to plan for easement monitoring.
- A workshop for easement monitors is planned for Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9-10 AM. Participants will meet at Scott Aspinall's property.
- Easements will be assigned to monitors at the September meeting. Monitors may notify Kathy Bunker if they have a preference for a particular property.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Ned Beecher reported that Chris Clyne and Nelson O'Bryan and he went to the Moultonborough event. Attendance was lower there and in Ossipee than in previous years. Possible factors were the weather, that less waste is accumulating over the years since people have an annual opportunity to dispose of it, and that more non-hazardous products are being used.
- It was suggested that directions to the Moultonborough site be added fliers and websites as the location is difficult to find.

Landfill Monitoring

- Nelson O'Bryan and Bill Batchelder plan to monitor the gas during the next week.
- An account is in place so the necessary machine can be ordered a couple of days in advance. It must be returned via FedEx, with the town being responsible for return postage.
- One well will be marked by a stake and some branches will be removed from the fence during the annual walk-through in September or October.

Managed Lands and Trails Committee

- A "Waterfowl Haven Pine Clearing Extravaganza" will be held on Saturday, October 3 from 1-5.
- Bob Cotrell and Brenda Taylor of the Tamworth Inn convened a meeting to discuss village trails and what might be done to enhance them.
- The Economic Development Committee will follow up with the Tamworth Inn regarding a trail network.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education

- Charlie Townsend is reviewing the drafted letter to landowners affected by the Shoreland Protection Act. Members may review the letter and comment.
- The brochures have arrived from the Department of Environmental Services, David Little has provided the mailing labels, and Susan Ticehurst has addressed the envelopes.

Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring

Green Mountain Conservation Group Aquifer Protection Ordinance Workshop

- Ned Beecher and David Little attended the first of two workshops.
- All 6 towns in the Ossipee watershed area will work simultaneously.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13th, 2009, from 6-8 pm.
- Members were asked to complete a "Criteria Priority Form" to identify steps the town would like to take to protect groundwater.

Wetlands Matters

Great Hill Reservation Trust / Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club

- Ned Beecher is sending a letter to the Office of State Planning reporting that the Commission's concerns regarding the conservation easement have been addressed.

Possible Wetlands Ordinance Violation

- Ned Beecher reported that he advised a resident (who was preparing to operate large machinery in a wetland area) regarding the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance and NH wetlands permitting process.
- The Wetlands Committee will look into the matter, following established procedures. It was noted that the Select Board is the enforcing body.
- Ned Beecher will recuse himself from future discussions of the matter.

Prime Wetlands Maps

- David Little presented a notebook of maps of Prime Wetlands in Tamworth including Barry Keith's report on why each area was included.

- Margaret Rieser reported that the library would be happy to help make maps available to the public. Digital items may be posted on the website.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Adoption of Land Trust Standards

- Margaret Rieser moved, and Charlie Townsend seconded, that the Land Trust Standards be adopted as presented. The motion passed, 5-0, with no objection.

Gilman Forest Protection Project

- Field trips are scheduled for August 22 and 23, 2009.
- The Forest Society brochures are almost done.
- The committee has been developing a fundraising strategy.
- \$48,000 has been raised.

Agricultural Land Protection

- Kathy Bunker moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to donate an additional \$500 to the Behr Farm conservation project. The motion passed, 5-0, with no objection.
- Charlie Townsend will submit a check request.

Adjournment

- Nelson O'Bryan moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to adjourn at 10:01. The motion passed with no objection.