

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Gilman Forest Committee Meeting Minutes
24 August 2009, 9 a.m.
Tamworth Town Office

Present: Ned Beecher, John Mersfelder, Katy Thompson, Jack Waldron, David Little, Nelson O'Bryan

- No minutes were available from the previous meeting; Ned will check to make certain that they were sent to committee members and re-send if necessary.
- Since the Town of Tamworth cannot process credit card donations; these will have to be done by the Forest Society. John will contact Tom Howe to make certain that there is agreement on this issue. There was discussion on the effect of the credit card transaction fee (estimated to be in the 2 to 3 % range) on fund raising. This will need to be considered an expense of the fund raising effort, but we will need to come to some agreement with the Forest Society on how this will be handled.
- Ned will contact Herb Cooper to make him aware that his donation to the Gilman Forest will appear as a charge from the Forest Society on his credit card bill. We need to make certain that this information is given to all future donors who use credit cards.
- Nelson will collect donations, keep a spreadsheet of necessary information; Chele will be responsible for sending thank you letters and receipts.
- At yesterday's kick-off to the fund raising, the committee received donations of \$5000, \$250, and \$200. At the event, Ned announced that an anonymous donor would match any contributions made that day; consequently, \$10,900 was added to the fund. Ned noted who the anonymous donor is. He further agreed to match any donations (not pledges) which were received or mailed today since some of those present yesterday called to indicate that they wanted to take advantage of the matching offer.
- Since the committee matching funds have not been completely used, Ned will post an item on the Tamworth exchange notifying potential donors that matching funds will be available from this source until next Monday, August 31st. He will also relay this information to Linda Tucker and other local newspapers in an effort to gain broad community participation.
- Jack initiated a long discussion on the importance of the larger effort of promoting connectivity and eco-centric planning in this and future conservation efforts. Ned will send Jack an electronic copy of the four-page brochure for his input since it has not yet been printed.
- In a discussion on possible donors and how or when they should be contacted, the following points were made.
 - One person has indicated she wishes to donate stock; David will be her contact for this contribution.
 - Another has indicated that she will be sending a check, so the planned visit by Chele and David may not be necessary at this time.
 - One potential large donor is involved in an effort to establish a foundation for agricultural preservation, so it may not be the best time to contact him.
 - Katy has a list of people to contact and will start on those.
- We have a number of copies of the two-page brochure. The committee will work on compiling a list of people to whom these brochures should be sent.
- John will set up the next meeting using e-mail.

Nelson O'Bryan