

Draft

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Date: September 14, 2009

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

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Ned Beecher, Chair.
- Members present were Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Willie Farnum (Alternate Select Board Representative), Dave Haskell, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Margaret Rieser and Charlie Townsend.
- Alternate Scott Eldridge was seated as a voting member.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, August 10, 2009

- The minutes were corrected to indicate that the meetings on July 14 and 21 were held in 2008.
- Bill Batchelder moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed with no objection, Dave Haskell and Kristel Faris abstaining.

Opening of Previously Sealed Minutes Regarding Negotiations on the Gilman Property

- Charlie Townsend moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to accept the minutes of July 14, 2008, and to unseal them. The motion passed with no objection.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to accept the minutes of July 21, 2008, and to unseal them. The motion passed with no objection.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to accept the minutes of March 9, 2009, and to unseal them. The motion passed with no objection.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to accept the minutes of June 8, 2009, and to unseal them. The motion passed with no objection.

Administrative

Budget

- The budget was submitted, with a line added for website maintenance, as directed at last meeting.
- No request will be made for additional funds for the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Willie Farnum commended the Commission for submitting its budget proposal in a timely manner.

TCC Supper

- A supper for all members, alternates and families will be held following the work day at 5:30 on October 3rd at the Mersfelders'.
- RSVP to Ned Beecher.
- Ned Beecher will send directions.

Committee / Coordinator Reports

Selectman's Representative

- The TCC budget request will be reviewed by the Select Board, there being no finance committee.
- Willie Farnum expressed appreciation for the TCC's keeping the Select Board apprised of the progress on the Gilman Forest Protection Project. He will carry back the message that fundraising is at about the fifty percent mark.

Planning Board Representative

- Three Land Use Planning Forums were held. Three more, on the topics of agriculture, small business and conservation are planned. The Planning Board requests that the Conservation Commission organize the forum on conservation, covering drinking water protection, conservation corridors and land use regulation.
 - Nicole Maher will facilitate.
 - The Commission will bring together participants with diverse interests.

Easement Monitoring

- An Easement Monitoring Training Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9-10 AM.
- Members should notify Ned Beecher if they are unable to attend. Those who cannot attend may be trained by assisting someone who has been trained.
- Properties to be monitored will be assigned at the workshop.

Landfill Monitoring

- Bill Batchelder reported that the gas monitoring machine failed again. Readings were inconsistent. Nelson O'Bryan contacted H.E. Bergeron on the issue.
- Another monitoring attempt will be made in late October. Marking of exterior wells and removal of a branch from the fence will be done in October.

Managed Lands and Trails Committee

- A "Waterfowl Haven Pine Clearing Extravaganza" will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 1-5.
- Waterfowl Haven and the Bearcamp Field will be mowed in October.
- Willie Farnum reported that the steps on the Fire Tower need to be painted and a few nails need to be pounded down but the rest of the structure is in good shape.
- It was reported that interest in the Economic Development Committee's focus on developing a trails network seems to be gaining momentum.

Ordinance Review

- Ned Beecher reported that the committee is reviewing all applications and forms used by the Town with the intention of making them consistent in format and assuring that they adequately address the information called for in the relevant ordinance. The Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance will be addressed in the next meeting on October 5th.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education

- Letters were sent to landowners affected by the Shoreland Protection Act. Two people reported that they had not realized they were in the affected zone.

Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring

Aquifer Protection

- David Little attended a Green Mountain Conservation Group Aquifer Protection workshop, led by the Lakes Region Planning Commission. The goal is for all six towns to present a common ordinance on the 2011 ballot.

Wetlands Matters

Potential Violation Review Process

- The process for responding to potential violations was reviewed.
- It was suggested that "Select Board" be changed to "enforcing body".
- The Wetlands and Subsurface Review Committee is the default team for reviewing situations.
- In fairness to those who comply with regulations, the Commission will bring forward complaints about possible violations as a method of providing education about requirements.
- Charlie Townsend will ask town staff if there is a point in the real estate transaction process where information about wetlands regulations might be made available to potential new owners.
- Ned Beecher will inform the Wetlands and Subsurface Committee about a potential wetlands violation but will excuse himself from further involvement in the matter.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Gilman Forest Protection Project

- The Carroll County Independent featured a front page article about the Gilman Forest Protection Project. The Mountain Ear published a story after the walk.
- Ned Beecher made a presentation on the project, illustrating connectivity between the Ossipee Mountains and White Mountains. David Little has made the presentation to other interested groups and Ned Beecher will present it to the Sandwich Conservation Commission in October.
- About \$49,000 remains to be raised to meet the goal of \$139,000. All committee members have contributed and Commission members were invited to make a donation.
- Gilman Forest Protection Project funds will be tracked on a separate line item.
- Chele Miller was given permission to use the town postage machine and TCC account to send thank you notes.

Other Business

Household Hazardous Waste

- It was reported that more people from Tamworth went to the Moultonboro site than the Ossipee site, resulting in a greater turnout from Tamworth than previously believed.

Adjournment

- Dave Haskell moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to adjourn.
- Prior to adjournment, the Commission further discussed the land use planning forum. It was suggested that the topic be how to create land use regulations to address the issues of drinking water protection. Participants would be asked what they would, and would not, want.
- Suggestions of stakeholders who might offer diverse perspectives were made.
- A date of Monday, October 19th at 7 pm was proposed.
- The motion to adjourn passed with no objection at 8:37 pm.