

# **TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Draft Minutes  
**December 14, 2009**

## **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Ned Beecher.
- Members present were Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Margaret Rieser, and Charlie Townsend.
- Alternate Nelson O'Bryan served as a voting member.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Bill Batchelder moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to accept the minutes of the October 12, 2009 meeting as presented. The motion passed with no objection.

## **Energy Committee Update**

Peg and Lee Custer, Co-Chairs, and other members of the Energy Commission reported on their activities.

- The Energy Committee is exploring the creation of a town energy plan.
- Recent activities include distribution of CLF bulbs, identifying streetlights that may be unnecessary, supporting the Brett School carbon challenge and energy fair, public education, sponsoring a solar hot water heater workshop, attending a conference on energy (and water) usage, purchasing wattage meters, installing no idling signs, and securing an energy audit of town buildings.
- A workshop on energy audits for individuals and small businesses will be held on January 26, 2010. The intent is to show how small investments in energy efficiency can save money.
- The importance of recycling water, particularly for agricultural use, was discussed.
- Both the Energy Committee and the Conservation Commission will look for opportunities to coordinate efforts. It was noted that the Commissions have overlapping educational interests. Publishing conservation tips in the Tamworth Civic News and on the Tamworth Exchange were mentioned, as was a public display.
- The Energy Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month. New volunteers are welcome.

## **Administrative**

### **November Meeting**

Apologies were extended to those who arrived for the November meeting as it was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

### **Budget**

Charlie Townsend reported that expenses for 2009 will come in within the budgeted amount. Some interest has accrued and credit was received for the Land Use Change Tax.

### **NH Association of Conservation Commissions**

Ned Beecher, Margaret Rieser and John Mersfelder attended the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

- As keynote speaker, the NH Agricultural Commissioner advocated for the formation of agricultural commissions and the conservation of agricultural land.
- A USDA approved slaughter house was suggested as a potential economic development project.
- It was noted that Carroll County's "New and Beginning Farmers" program loans farming equipment.
- Towns may adopt "Right to Farm" ordinances proactively before anything happens that might infringe on farming.

### **Member Plans for 2010**

- Kristel Faris has submitted her resignation from the Commission.
- Kathy Bunker moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to recommend Nelson O'Bryan as a full member of the Commission. The motion passed with no objection. Nelson will serve until 2012. Ned Beecher will bring his name to the Select Board for appointment.
- Members were encouraged to discuss Commission membership with potential volunteers.

- Sandra Flanagan was introduced as a new Associate Member.

### **Complete Forestry Notification**

- A "Complete Forestry Notification" was received for Harold Cook/Homestead Trust, Tax Map/Lot 415/16.

## **Committee / Coordinator Reports**

### **Select Board**

- Charlie Townsend and Ned Beecher presented the Commission's budget request to the Select Board.

### **Planning Board Representative**

- David Little reported that two Land Use Planning Forums have been held since the last meeting.
- A seven person Land Use Planning Committee, consisting of four planning board members and three members of the public, will be appointed. Interviews have been conducted. The goal is for the committee to propose a land use ordinance for the 2011 meeting.

### **Easement Monitoring**

- Kathy Bunker reported that most easement monitoring reports have been completed.
- Baseline documentation for the hayfield (which will be called the Mabel Evans Hayfield) and the Rhodes property is being gathered.
- The Commission will attempt to get boundaries of all conservation easement properties marked clearly over the next couple of years.

### **Managed Lands and Trails Committee**

- Volunteers were thanked for maintenance work completed at Waterfowl Haven. In the summer trails should be cleaned and marked.
- Nelson O' Bryan moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to authorize spending \$200 to establish the boundary and have a legal registered boundary agreement with the Remick Foundation. The motion passed, three in favor and two opposed. It was noted that the money would need to be encumbered by December 31, 2009.
- It was suggested that the Conservation Commission facilitate a meeting to stimulate further progress on the idea of a trail network.
- It is planned to let small shrubs grow on the Bearcamp Field.
- The painting of the fire tower has been postponed until Spring.
- In January the Commission will discuss signage and/or maps directing people to the fire tower. Bob Hardy of the NH DRED has approved of placing four small signs. Nelson O'Bryan will discuss posting a laminated map on the the Outdoor Club kiosk with Brian Cutter.

### **Ordinance Review**

- Proposed revisions to the Tamworth Wetlands Application form will be brought to the Commission and the Planning Board. The idea is to have a single form to apply for a special use permit and buffer waivers for septic systems or work within wetlands area.

### **Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education**

- Bill Batchelder will write the annual report for the town report.
- The Managed Lands and Trails brochure will be reviewed and updated as needed.

### **Agriculture Commission**

- No action has been taken but it was agreed to keep this concern on the regular agendas as "Agriculture Matters"

### **Landfill Monitoring**

- Nelson O'Bryan and Bill Batchelder monitored the landfill. None of the monitoring wells showed leakage of methane. A tree was removed from the fence. The field was mowed. Ned will mark two wells to prevent them from being hit by snowplows. The next monitoring is scheduled for February.

## **Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring**

- At a meeting of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, a land use planner from Belmont explained the process that town used to create a land use planning ordinance.
- Ned Beecher referred members to an analysis of the economic impact of poor water quality.
- The Commission decided to recommit to the goal of well head/aquifer protection and water quality monitoring.

- David Little, Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher will continue to work on this project.

### **Land Acquisition & Easements**

- Over \$100,000 has been raised for the Gilman Forest Protection Project.
- Four individuals have issued a \$12,000 challenge grant, doubling contributions made before January 31, 2010.

### **Master Plan Implementation**

- Progress in 2009 toward establishing wildlife corridors by identifying corridors, providing education for land owners, and encouraging conservation easements was reviewed. The Gilman Forest Project and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests brochure illustrated progress in this area and will serve as catalysts for further efforts.
- The Commission plans a series of walks on local trails to work toward its goal of coordinating efforts to expand and publicize the network of trails. Margaret Rieser will ask the Bearcamp Trackers to lead a walk.

### **Adjournment**

Kathy Bunker moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM. The motion passed with no objection.