

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

October 13, 2008

[Approved on November 18, 2008.]

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Ned Beecher at 7:01 pm.
- In attendance were Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Donna Veilleux, and David Cluff (Planning Board Representative).
- Jeremy Phillips acted as an alternate in place of Bryan Berlind.

Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2008

- Bill Batchelder moved, and Donna Veilleux seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

Administrative

A. Resignation of Donna Veilleux, with regrets

- Donna will be unable to fill out her term as she is moving to Madison. The Commission had been aware of this possibility at the time of her nomination.
- The Commission accepted the resignation with regrets and thanks, noting the great amount of time and energy that she has contributed.

B. Recruitment of New Members

- A full member is needed; additional alternates would be helpful as well.
- Donna reported that she and John Mersfelder had discussed possible nominations. One person was approached but declined. Two others will be contacted by Donna, and they will forward their names to the Commission if there is interest.
- Suggestions of ways to recruit new members were requested.
- Ned will email a draft announcement to members and then place notices in the Tamworth Exchange and the town columns.
- Ned has a description of the position that he can forward to interested people.

Budget Coordinator Report

Statement

- A financial statement has been forwarded to Charlie Townsend.
- An invoice in the amount of \$90 from Abati for signs for the Peg King Spur Trail arrived. This expenditure had been previously authorized.

GMCG Water Quality Protection Program

- Tamworth's portion of the Green Mountain Conservation Group's \$5,945 cost for water testing is \$900.
- Jeremy Phillips moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to authorize the payment of \$900 to the Green Mountain Conservation Group for the water quality testing program for 2008. Donna Veilleux recused herself. The motion carried, 2-0.

Protocol for Submitting Special Use Permit and Waiver Applications

- Ned met with the Planning Board to review protocols that have been developed for Special Use and Waiver Applications under the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance.
- Ned will continue with the revisions and return the document to the Planning Board for review.

2009 Budget

- Members preferred to put off discussions until the Budget Coordinator is present.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting

- This event will be held on November 1st and Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Administrative Assistant Report

- All of the documents in the Commission Members' Manual are now on a memory stick. Other documents are being added. This will be kept in the locked file drawer in the Town Office for members to access.
- Ned will bring a laptop and projector to a future meeting so members can see what the materials are available.

Committee / Coordinator Reports

Planning Board

- David Cluff reported that the Planning Board held a special meeting on October 8th. The Chocorua Lake Conservation Project was approved, including the recommendations made by the TCC.
- Property previously owned by Betty Steele was subdivided into 7 lots. One lot will be a large green-space to be jointly owned by the owners of the other 6 lots. The deeds will stipulate that the green-space not be built on. There will be follow up regarding the green space.
- David Cluff recommends that when people give green space to the town the \$100 fee for that lot be waived.
- The Planning board will consult with Mike Izzard on the subject of gravel on January 14th.
- The Planning Board has accepted the Master Plan as complete and has scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 on November 18th.
- The Club Motorsports Inc. remand is in appeal, so no Board action can be taken at this time.

TCC Managed Lands & Trails Committee

Dedication of Fire Tower and Peg King Spur Trail

- This event was held as planned and attended by 30+ people.
- Chris Haartz, representative of the Forest Fire Lookout Association here in NH, gave a nice presentation and interesting history, including why the tower was located on Great Hill.
- Bill and Donna were commended for their public relations effort.
- Donna, John Mersfelder, and Ned were thanked for bringing refreshments.
- Pictures of the event are available, taken by Bill.
- Official certificates about the fire tower will be sent, one each for the vault, library, and commission. The commission may also purchase a bronze plaque if desired and will make copies of the certificate to post at the Tower.

Publications, Publicity, Outreach, Education Committee

- Wetlands information has been sent to fifty-three wetlands scientists as well as designers, installers and builders in Sandwich, Tamworth, Madison, and Ossipee.
- David also sent the materials to soil scientists and chairs of Conservation Commissions.
- Donna, David, and Bill were thanked for these efforts.
- It was suggested that a record be made of who has been contacted and what publicity was done, to help with future efforts. Donna agreed to do this.

Energy Committee

- Donna will resign from the Energy Committee as of November 1st. Cathy Mersfelder will serve as chairperson. New members are being sought.
- "No Idling" signs have been posted at the school, post office, and village. Free signs are no longer available, but the committee is using grant money to purchase additional necessary signs.
- A grant proposal has been submitted to PSNH for the purchase of programmable thermostats for town buildings.
- The Energy Committee is working with PSNH to create a street light conversion plan. The goal is to conserve energy, possibly by reducing the number of lights and/or wattage. Tamworth currently has 80 street lights. This project has the support of the Select Board. PSNH will submit a Streetlight Conversion Plan that will indicate the cost of the project and how long it will take to pay off the cost of the changes through energy savings.

- The Energy Committee is interested in approaching the Planning Board about forming an energy subcommittee to address some other actions that may be taken by the town.

Easement Monitoring Coordinator

- In Claes Thelemarck's absence, Ned reported on progress.
- Donna finished the Cave Easement monitoring report.
- The State Office of Energy Planning visits LCHIP properties every four years. The Aspinall, Cave and Community School easements were all made under this program. Stephen Walker of OEP visited all three last Thursday and indicated that things are going well in terms of monitoring and relations with land owners.
- Claes did the baseline documentation on the Rhodes easement. He and Dave Haskell brushed out the trail.
- The issue of charging easement monitoring fees was discussed. Often it is a lump sum rather than an annual fee and goes into a group fund for management and enforcement.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Donna Veilleux will put an information folder together for the next coordinator and will be willing to help as a resource.

Ordinance Review Committee

- This committee previously listed all of the town approved warrants back to 1950. These are being reviewed to determine which should be annulled by the town and which may need to be updated. Ned will approach the Select Board about the need to move forward with this effort more.

Wetlands Matters

Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation – Grove Project

- Discussed earlier in this meeting.

Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club – Sanborn Brook Bridge Project

- On behalf of the Snowmobile Club, David Bowles previously requested a waiver for construction within 25 feet of a wetland to install a new bridge across the Sanborn Brook. The Commission looked at the plans and suggested to the Planning Board that the waiver be granted. The Planning Board granted the request.
- It has been reported that the work to straighten the trail and put in the bridge required the use of heavy equipment. The landowner has submitted a complaint about how the project was handled to the Department of Environmental Services and has closed the land to the snowmobile club for now.
- Since the conservation easement on that land requires that any activity that is allowed has to be done in compliance with all regulations, any violation will affect the easement. In that case the Office of Energy and Planning will become involved.
- The Conservation Commission will wait to see what DES determines regarding alleged violations of state wetlands regulations and then consider recommendations for possible Town actions.

McConarty Driveway

- Ned checked the progress on this project with Steve McConarty and Irene Garvey. The work was not complete at the time of the visit last week. There was a question about how to install the last culvert.
- It was recommended that the TCC Wetlands and Subsurface Committee look at the project when it is complete – Ned will alert them. The State will need to sign off on the project before the matter is finalized.

Focus Tamworth – Request for Information

- Steve Gaal has requested clarification on past items. Ned will forward the request to TCC members after he reviews it.

Minimum Impact Applications/Notifications

- An Incomplete Forestry Notification notice was received from DES for lot 206/37.
- A Standard Forestry Notification was received for lot 203-8, Carroll Banfill.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Legislation

- RSA 36-A:4 has been updated to enable towns to adopt the option of giving conservation commissions the power to put conservation fund money toward land protection efforts outside of the town. It also allows the town to adopt an ordinance that allows the conservation fund to help a land trust or non-profit organization to protect land within the town
- Donna moved, and Jeremy seconded, to recommend to the Select Board that two articles be added to the town warrant for the March 2009 Town Meeting to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4 I(a) and (b).
- The importance of educating the public about this issue prior to the meeting was discussed.
- The motion passed, 3-0.
- Ned will forward the request to the Select Board.

Land Trust Standards and Practices

- The committee is reviewing “Land Trust Standards and Practices” and will come forward with recommendations on items the Commission might adopt to come into compliance with those standards.

Other Business

- Donna invited Commission members to consider volunteering for the energy committee.
- Jeremy reported that the Jackman Pond and Big Pines trails were blazed. Five more trails need to be done with Black Spruce being a priority. He recommends that existing red trail blazes be removed.
- Ned will distribute a survey request from DES and the NH Survey Center regarding water resources management.

Adjournment

- Donna moved, and Jeremy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. The motion passed 3-0.