

# TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes  
November 18, 2008  
*[Approved on 1/12/09.]*

## **Present:**

- Members: Scott Aspinall, Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Bryan Berlind, Charlie Townsend, Dave Haskell
- Alternates: Claes Thelemark
- Dave Cluff attending as Planning Board Representative
- Willie Farnum attending as Select Board Representative
- Members of the public.

## **Meeting Called to Order by Ned Beecher at 7:05 pm**

Seating of Alternates: Claes Thelemark served in the place of Scott Aspinall, until the latter's arrival.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Bill Batchelder moved, and Ned Beecher seconded, to accept the minutes of October 13, 2008 as presented. The motion passed, 3-0 with three abstaining.

## **Administrative**

### **Nominations**

- One position is open for a full member whose term will expire in March of 2010. In addition, alternate positions are open.
- The process for interviewing potential commission members was reviewed. Commission members received a scoring sheet to use if they so chose.
- Discussions were held with candidates.
  - Kathy Bunker has lived in Tamworth for 13 years. She loves walking on conservation lands in Tamworth and is interested in education and history. She has a degree in English and is currently employed by Echo in Conway. Her job requires her to be accountable for a budget. Kathy is comfortable with public speaking and organizing projects, bringing people from different departments together. She would like to do research or pass information on to the community. It was noted that her research and writing skills would be particularly useful. Kathy is available to volunteer for a couple of hours a week and able to attend meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Kathy would be comfortable being an alternate until she learns more about the Commission. In response to her inquiry, it was explained that the Commission is involved in wetlands matters on the local and state level. Easements on protected lands are monitored annually, which involves walking and noting any changes in the land to make sure the easement is being maintained as intended.
  - Margaret Reiser is a resident of Tamworth and would like to be on the Commission because of her interest in conservation. She feels strongly that with planning and care the craziness of sprawl can be avoided. She is impressed by how much gets done by volunteers in town and feels that it would be useful to learn more. Margaret has learned about conservation easements from the landowner's perspective. She has been on the TCC Conservation Lands Review Committee, which put together the Natural Resource Inventory. She is familiar with the various maps used to get information about the town. Margaret has also been part of the Bearcamp Trackers group, has volunteered with the Wonalancet Outdoor Club, and is treasurer of the Friends of Cook Library. Recently, she attended the NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual conference. She is willing to attend meetings on Monday nights and willing to put in additional time. Margaret would be interested in learning more about reviewing wetlands permit applications. She finds it exciting to get people inspired about wildlife and helping them to realize what to do so we keep on having good encounters. Margaret inquired about the Commission's goals for the future.
- It was noted that there are no current alternates who might want to become full members at this time.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Bryan Berlind seconded, to recommend to the Select Board that Margaret Reiser be appointed as a full member of the Conservation Commission to fill the term of Donna Veilleux and that Kathy Bunker be appointed as an alternate. The motion passed, 5-0.

- Both Kathy Bunker and Margaret Reiser agreed to have their names put forward to the Select Board. Once formally appointed they will be sworn in by the town clerk. Kathy Bunker's term will be for three years. [Scott Aspinall joined the meeting. Claes Thelemark returned to alternate status.]

### **Budget Coordinator Report**

- It was moved and seconded to reimburse Ned Beecher for expenses related to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual conference (\$165 for 4 registrations plus \$52 for mileage at \$.40/mile). The motion passed with no objection.
- David Haskell was thanked for donating a new planning book: *Innovative Land Use and Planning Techniques*.

### **2009 Budget**

- The 2009 budget was reviewed and revised.
- Willie Farnum suggested that as easements are accepted, the landowner contribute to an easement fund to offset any future legal and other expenses.
- Scott Aspinall suggested separating legal defense expenses from monitoring expenses.
- The proposed budget amount for 2009 is less than the amount for 2008.
- The comparative advantages of having easements monitored by the town vs. a non-profit were discussed.
- Charlie Townsend moved, and Bryan Berling seconded, that the Conservation Commission request \$6225 for the 2009 budget. The motion passed with no objection.

### **Administrative Assistant's Report**

- A master document with links to associated TCC documents is now available on a memory stick. It contains all of the documents in the Member's Handbook as well as other resources.
- In the interest of time, it was decided that a report on the workshops attended at the NH Association of Conservation Commissioners' annual meeting will be made at a later time.

### **Update on protocol for submitting Special Use Permit and Waiver Applications**

- David Cluff reported that the Planning Board has accepted the draft protocol. Bill Batchelder and Ned Beecher will review it once more.

### **DES/UNH Survey on Water**

- At least two completed surveys were sent in.

### **Master Plan Public Hearing**

- A copy of the proposed new master plan is available on CD and print at the Library.
- A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Committee / Coordinator Reports**

### **Selectman's Representative**

- No action has been taken on the McConarty easement. The driveway has just been completed, but the owner has not surveyed the easement which would be next step, if they choose to proceed.
- The "Saving Special Places" conference will be held in Guilford on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- A progress report on the town garage was given. It was noted that the town will try to use under 500 tons of salt this winter, compared to 2,000 tons used in the past.

### **Planning Board Representative**

- David Cluff reported that the Planning Board has reviewed the proposed master plan.
- There will be a speaker on the topic of gravel on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **TCC Managed Lands & Trails Committee**

- The desirability of white plastic signs (such as those at Cadillac Mountain) and the more rustic ones currently in use were compared.
- Map box needs to be brought in from Hennenway.

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

- This committee is in need of a new chairperson.
- Bill Batchelder reported that Green Mountain Conservation Group has requested town news for their newsletter. The deadline is in another month. Suggestions for topics included the tower dedication, re-blazing of trails, and easement monitoring progress.

### **Energy Committee**

- A new representative from the TCC is needed. The Commission can make a recommendation to the Select Board which will then make the appointment. It was suggested that new members attend an energy committee meeting and then consider joining.

**Easement Monitoring**

- Claes Thelemark reported that baseline documentation of the Rhodes property has been completed.
- Monitors should finish their reports by the end of year.

**Household Hazardous Waste Day**

- Donna Veilleux was thanked for turning in these files.
- A new chairperson is needed.

**Conservation Lands Review**

- No meetings recently, as the TCC reviews the Land Trust Alliance standards; Ned, Scott, Margaret, and John Mersfelder will finish this process soon – a meeting in early December was set.

**Ordinance Review Committee**

- Ned Beecher, Bryan Berlind and Willie Farnum set a meeting for January 5<sup>th</sup>, will contact Planning Board members.

**Wetlands Matters****Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club**

- DES received a complaint.
- An inspection by DES is pending, but the date is unknown.
- It was suggested that when Commissioners look at permit requests they consider how equipment will get in and out.

**Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation**

- A letter of thanks was received re the Grove project.

**McConarty Driveway**

- Mr. McConarty and Irene Garvey have said that work required by DES is complete, however Commission members report that it does not look quite finished, because vegetation has yet to come in and the east end seems to stop at the edge of a wet area; not sure what is going to happen there.
- Bryan Berlind will consult with Irene Garvey, then write a report and send it to Bill Batchelder and Ned Beecher. Ned will send it to the DES officer. .

**Cleveland Hill Road**

- A new application has been received from H E Bergeron for a bridge on Cleveland Hill Road, before Brown Hill Road, over Mill Brook. The town is the applicant and Bergeron is acting as agent.
- The Commission decided to decline any comment on the project; a Special Use Permit is not required because the Town is exempt.

**Wildfowl Haven Right of Way**

- Randall Gordon requested a right of way to get to their newly-purchased land, which has no road access and is a small narrow lot northeast of Waterfowl Haven in Chocorua.
- The Commission suggested that this be a Select Board decision since Waterfowl Haven belongs to the town.

**Land Acquisition & Easements****Reports from Steve Walker / Office of Energy and Planning re LCIP Easements**

- TCC received a copy of the report which included note of the concerns over the Cave property trail work and complaint to the DES Wetlands Board.
- The Aspinall and Community School properties were also monitored.

**Remick Natural Area**

- Charlie Townsend will complete the DRED self-inspection report by the end of November.

**Adjournment**

Dave Haskell moved, and Bryan Berlind seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed with no objection at 10:13.