

**Tamworth Conservation Commission**  
Draft Minutes – January 14, 2018  
*Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting*

**Call to Order** – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Charlie Townsend, Chele Miller and John Watkins. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Eric Dube, Ned Beecher, Dexter Harding and Lucy Gatchell. Nelson assigned Dexter and Lucy to fill the vacant seats. Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman.

**Approval of Minutes for 12/10/2018** – Batch moved to accept minutes with the addition that Scott Aspinall was also present when flagging the proposed hold-out area on the Payne lot (Land Conservation Section). Lucy seconded, motion carried.

**Administrative/Announcements**

Received Green Mountain Conservation Group newsletter. Anonymous source says Blair Folts, GMCG Executive Director and Founder, will be retiring in the fall of this year. Agreed there should be some form of recognition and gratitude from TCC when and if this happens.

**Membership** – Terms for Chele, Stephanie and Eric expire this year. All three are willing to accept another 3 year term. There is one open seat on the Commission. Dexter is willing to accept appointment as a full commissioner. John moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they appoint Chele, Stephanie and Dexter to three-year terms as commissioners and that they appoint Eric to a three-year term as an Alternate. Charlie seconded, motion carried.

**Financial** – John reported that the final 2018 statement shows that TCC expended \$7040. Two professional fee bills that were expected to be paid in 2018 were not received. They will have to be paid out of this year's budget and/or the Conservation Fund. TCC's proposed 2019 budget has been presented to the Selectmen. On January 31 there will be a budget hearing; 5 pm for school and 6:30 pm for town.

**Well Water Quality (Other Business)** – John is concerned about recent scientific reports concerning the presence of hormone interference substances in drinking water, particularly as it pertains to public drinking water systems such as the Brett School. Ned discussed the various water quality standards that NH-DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau has been working on. John will contact them for more information.

**Board of Selectmen** – Steve Gray reported that the Selectmen have been busy working on the 2019 budget. They have been trying hard to lower the tax rate but after NH-DRA adjusted their figures, the 2018 rate went up 36 cents. The county rate has also gone up. Steve would like to have a single legal fee line item in the town budget that all agencies could use. Remains to be seen if that will happen.

**Planning Board** – Eric reported that there was a good turnout at the village sewer public hearing. There will be three articles on the town warrant: to buy the sewer system for \$1, to create a sewer district, and to appoint or elect an administrative board for it.

**Land Conservation**

Alt Lot 414/58 – The easement has been completed and signed by all parties. Alt's attorney will register it at the County Registry of Deeds. The Administrative Assistant will draw up a baseline report. Nelson will send him a copy of the deed.

Other conservation projects are on hold until spring.

## **Public Education and Outreach**

Summer Camp Committee – Tin Mountain has scheduled the third full week in July for the Tamworth Explorers program. Age range will be 11 to 13 or 14, \$245/camper and registration will be open on February 1. Still a number of details to work out. Plan to write a grant to New Hampshire Charitable Trust for transportation costs and to the Tamworth Foundation for subsidizing fees to Tamworth participants. Subsidy goal is \$1400 to be split between Tamworth campers. Should get the word out to Donna Ulitz and Melanie Streeter. Chele moved that TCC support the development of the Tin Mountain Explorers Summer Camp. Charlie seconded, motion carried. Dexter abstained.

**Managed Lands and Trails** – These ice storms have made a mess of the trails. Some of the bent over trees will likely not recover. Report problem areas to Nelson.

## **Other Business**

Sue Morse is scheduled for a presentation on living with bears on February 15 at the Brett School. She will also be doing two interpretive walks on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Administrative Assistant will post the events on the website. Sue will also be doing an animals and climate change presentation in Hebron on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The annual Saving Special Places conference will be in Alton on April 6. <https://savingspecialplaces.org/>

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, John seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*