

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – August 12, 2019
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, John Watkins, and Charlie Townsend. Dexter Harding arrived at 7:50 pm. Commissioners absent: Chele Miller and Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell and Kit Morgan. Nelson assigned Lucy and Kit to fill the vacant seats.

Also present: Lynne Flaccus

Approval of Minutes for 07/01/2019 – Batch moved to accept minutes as written. Charlie seconded, motion carried.

Administrative/Announcements –

Received copy of NH-DES Wetlands Bureau Forestry Notification for Tax Map 208, Lot 40.

Received copy of NH-DES Wetlands Bureau Trails Notification for Tax Map 406, Lot 33.

Received acknowledgment and thank you from Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) for contribution to water quality monitoring.

Received from the Cook Library a copy of the original map of Barry Keith's wetlands inventory for Tamworth. The map was donated to the Library by Grace Payne.

The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was August 10th. Nelson and Sue Stowbridge were Tamworth's volunteer greeters and quiz masters. Public participation appeared to be lighter than usual but that may have been because of a very efficient crew. The numbers have not been reported yet.

Financial

The Conservation Fund balance is currently \$86,821.31.

Charlie moved to authorize a payment of \$18,300 to cover payment to The Community School for the purchase of 2.3 acres of land by means of a boundary line adjustment; funds to come from the Conservation Fund. Kit seconded, motion carried.

Charlie moved to authorize a payment of \$1000 to Tin Mountain Conservation Center to cover transportation costs for the Tamworth Trailblazers summer camp; \$500 to come from the 2019 operating budget and \$500 to come from the Conservation Fund, which is where the grant money was deposited. Kit seconded, motion carried.

Charlie reported that, subtracting the previously paid and authorized to-be-paid expenditures, there is \$4732.64 left in the 2019 operating budget.

Land Conservation

Alt Easements – Chris Alt and Nelson met with SPNHF on July 18 to discuss simplifying the Alt easement package. A tentative proposal was made by SPNHF to accept all the Chris Alt easements with TCC as an executor. It needs approval from the SPNHF Executive Board. There has been no word yet from them.

Community School Land Purchase – All the legal work is complete. The only thing left is to have the Selectmen sign the deed at their next meeting.

Payne – Nelson met with Paul King on the property. Paul recommended a few minor changes that would cut surveying costs. He is currently doing the survey.

Padgett – The Conservation Lands Review Committee (CLRC) discussed the property of Kathi Padgett and family properties. The lots are in different ownership and any proposal for land protection would have to be worked out within the family before TCC can review it. Kathi favors forever wild protection which may not be feasible unless a land trust would accept fee-simple ownership.

Other CLRC Discussions – CLRC members have talked with Kiser (Map 411, Lot 1), Streeter (Map 414, Lot 95) and Aspinall (Map 414, Lot 96.1) about protection of Lunt Ledge and connecting the Hemenway Forest block with the Hackett-Bunker Hill block. There are no proposals at this time; it's an ongoing conversation. Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) has been looking at the Cook property on Depot Road (Map 211, Lots 52, 52.5, 52.6 & 52.7; apparently they have been or will be merged). LRCT may pursue a conservation easement with whoever buys the property. CLRC also discussed hearing from various townspeople with concerns about the amount of conservation land in Tamworth. There should be a fact sheet or similar document that presents facts about conservation land in Tamworth and the benefits to the town.

Public Education and Outreach

Family Day Parade – TCC won the most original float award. Thanks to Lucy and Dexter for spearheading the salamander theme.

Tamworth Trailblazers – Eleven campers participated in the summer camp. Two were from Tamworth. The others were from neighboring towns or summer visitors. It was a good group of active kids and they took on some strenuous hikes. Dexter considered it a success, although it was disappointing that there were not more Tamworth participants. He assumes Tin Mountain will deem it successful. One problem is that Brett School put together a competing program late in the school year. It might be worth talking with the school about working together on a cooperative program. Nelson reported on his report to the Tamworth Foundation annual meeting. He noted that a few members told him to continue the program and Tamworth participation will improve.

Easement Monitoring – Eric Dube has made himself available to any monitor who would like some help.

Wetlands – Nelson had forwarded NH-DOT's request for candidates for wetland mitigation areas to Lynn Flaccus of Chocorua Lake Conservancy. She made some suggestions and Nelson passed them on to DOT. They responded that they no longer needed any recommendations.

Pine Tree Power Cooling Water Disposal – Kit reported that GMCG met with NH-DES Groundwater Bureau concerning Pine Tree Power's application for water disposal. DES is concerned with the amount of arsenic in the water but they can't consider chlorides in the pending application because they can only address substances that are in the groundwater standards. The application is currently on hold, pending further information from the applicant. GMCG's Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee will be commenting against approval of the permit.

Managed Lands and Trails

Waterfowl Haven – Mark Streeter has agreed to mow the field but he needs to have the black locust cut first. Nelson has made arrangements for that. It looks like it would be best to have the field mowed every year so the black locust cannot regenerate between mowings.

Trails – Dexter reported that the Betty Steele Loop has a substantial blowdown where a multi-stem pine fell in numerous directions.

September Meeting – Nelson will be out of town on the second Monday of September. Agreed to have the September TCC meeting on the third Monday, September 16.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, John seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.